

MARYLAND guide to

FISHING

2013



WHAT'S NEW
for 2013

See page 6

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Maryland State Records



Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor

John R. Griffin, Department Secretary

Joseph P. Gill, Department Deputy Secretary

Thomas J. O'Connell, Fisheries Service Director

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission advises the Director of Fisheries Service on matters referred to the commission by the Director. This commission is comprised of individuals from across the state who represent the interests of various recreational fishing constituencies. The meeting schedule, agenda, summaries of past meetings, member affiliations and contact information are available online at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/management/?com=sfac.

Commissioners

James Gracie,
Chair, Trout Unlimited

William Windley, Vice Chair,
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

William Goldsborough,
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Greg Jetton,
Upper Bay Charter Boat Association

Valentine Lynch,
Ocean City Marlin Club

Raymond P. Morgan II, Ph.D.,
Appalachian Environmental Lab

Edward O'Brien,
Maryland Charter Boat Association

David Sikorski,
Coastal Conservation Association Maryland

David Smith,
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association

Herbert Smith, Ph.D.,
Recreational Fishing

Carol Stevenson,
Chesapeake Women Anglers

Roger Trageser,
Maryland B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

Brandon White,
TidalFish.com

James Wommack,
Recreational Fishing

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service

Tawes State Office Building

580 Taylor Avenue, B-2

Annapolis, MD 21401-2352

877-620-8DNR, ext 8325

Out of state call: 410-260-8325

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries

customerservice@dnr.state.md.us

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This publication is intended as a guide only. Regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. For state laws and regulations, see the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 08. Maryland laws and regulations can be found at the following web sites:

- **Laws:**
www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/
- **Regulations:**
www.dsd.state.md.us/comar

Stay up-to-date with regulatory proposals and other important DNR Fisheries topics by subscribing to the DNR Fisheries email list at www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/emailcontact.asp.

Follow DNR Fisheries:

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About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the Maryland Department of Natural Resources's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries programs!

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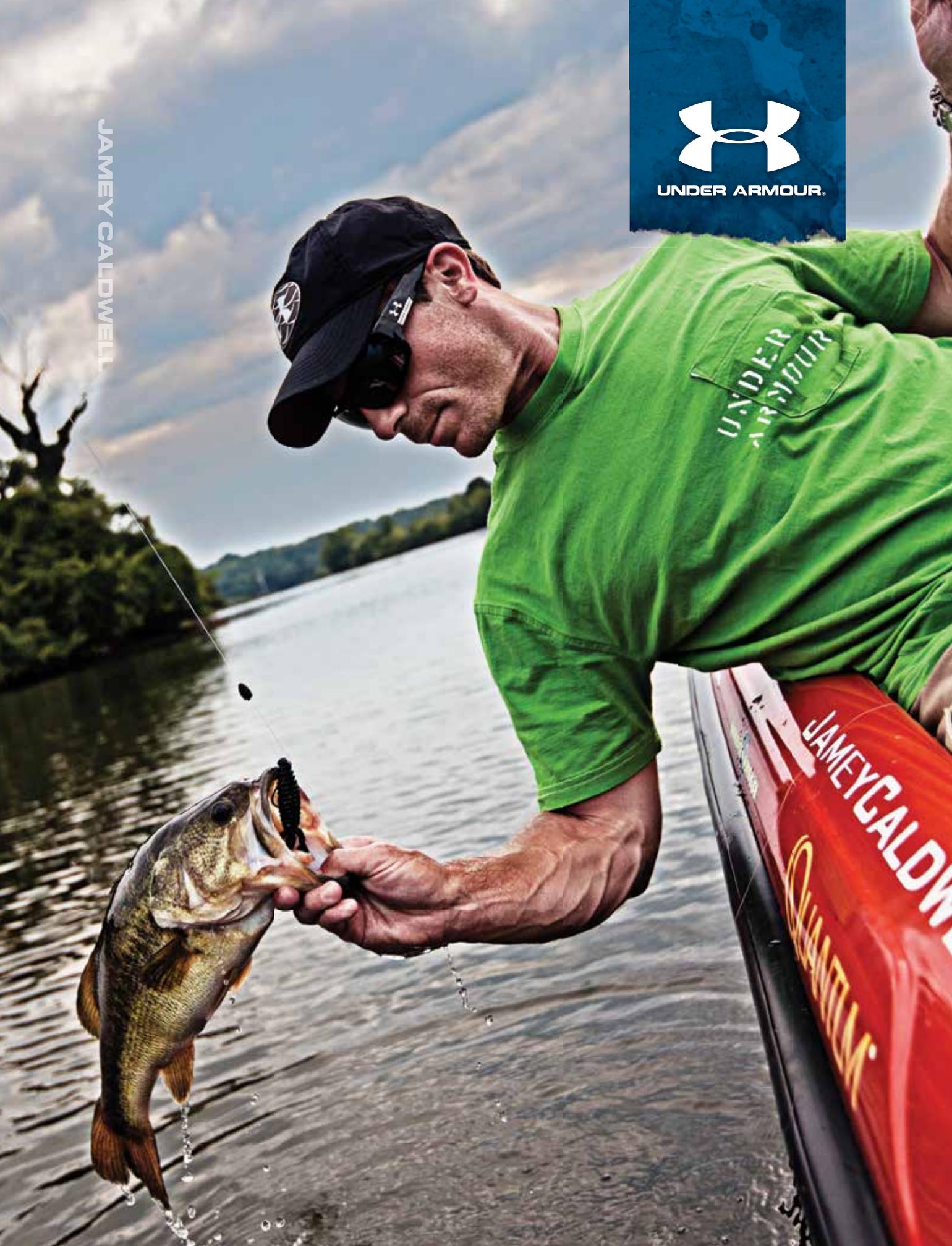
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JAMEY CALDWELL

QUANTUM



John R. Griffin and Martin O'Malley

Dear Anglers,

Maryland is blessed with boundless fishing opportunities, from the coldwater trout streams and lakes of Western Maryland to the world class tuna and billfish fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean. In between, our State boasts blue ribbon bass fishing in the Potomac River, the Upper Bay and Eastern Shore as well as abundant panfishing in community ponds.

Each year, nearly 90 percent of the Atlantic striped bass population returns to our portion of the Chesapeake Bay to spawn and grow. The blue crab defines what it means to be a Marylander, whether in the form of a plump crab cake or a silhouetted crabber working a trotline on a foggy summer morning. We have much to be thankful for.

Along with such bountiful outdoor opportunities comes the responsibility to conserve, protect, enhance and share our natural resources. Fortunately, Maryland's biologists, technicians and managers are working together with public advisory commissions and our colleges and universities to guide fisheries management. Still, our most ardent and effective conservationists and mentors are you, the anglers. Even as Department of Natural Resources professionals serve to safeguard and enhance our fishing assets, our anglers must also remain committed to passing on the passion for fishing and stewardship to the next generation. Fulfilling this role can be as simple and enjoyable as taking a child fishing, to ensure, we are responsible keepers of the future by being active in the present.

Thank you for your commitment and for being a part of Maryland's great fishing tradition.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland

John R. Griffin,
Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources



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*William Smith
Verona, VA*

*Captain Dale Plummer of TowBoatU.S.
Baltimore helped in the assist.*

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*Unlimited towing details and exclusions can be found online at BoatUS.com/towing or by calling.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2013

Black bass tournament directors must obtain permits prior to conducting fishing tournaments in certain instances. See Bass Section for details.

Spanish mackerel must be landed with the head and fins intact in accordance with new Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission rules.

Lion's Park Pond in Allegany County and **Avalon Pond** (Lost Lake) in Baltimore County are no longer limited to anglers under 16 years of age, 65 years of age or older, or who are blind. These waters are now Put-and-Take Trout Fishing areas with access for anglers of all ages. However, local restrictions on these areas may apply at the discretion of the local governing authority.

New lobster regulations require the mandatory V-notching and release of egg-bearing female lobsters. Lobsters may not be landed from February 1 through March 31. For more information, please see Coastal Bay & Atlantic Ocean table, page 19.

Catoctin Creek in Frederick County within the boundaries of Catoctin Creek Park has been designated as a Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Area.

Governor Bridge Natural Area Pond in Prince George's County is now a limited harvest area.

New state records going into 2013 include blueline tilefish (20 lbs.), snowy grouper (66 lbs.), Chesapeake Bay Division sheephead (13 lbs. 5 oz.), tautog (23 lbs.), scalloped hammerhead shark (266 lbs.) and blue catfish (84 lbs.).

The red drum Catch & Release Angler Award **minimum size is now 36 inches.**

The new **snowy grouper** Angler Award **minimum size is 32 inches.**

The **white catfish** Angler Award **minimum length is 20 inches and the state record benchmark weight is seven pounds.**

The **redbreast sunfish** Angler Award **minimum length is now 8 inches, and the minimum weight benchmark for a state record is 14 ounces.**

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Fish are recommended as part of a healthy and balanced diet. Most fish are safe to eat, but some have levels of contaminants which may be harmful.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) monitors Maryland fish and provides consumption advisories with recommended limits about how often certain fish should be eaten to minimize health risks. These advisories are intended for people like sport fishermen who eat Maryland fish on a regular basis.

MDE analyzes fish for two contaminants which can pose health risks and are known to accumulate in fish: PCBs and methylmercury. The information included in MDE consumption advisories is of particular importance for women and children because of the potential harmful effect of these contaminants on developing brains.

To see fish consumption advisories and other information which will help you make the best choices about what fish you eat and how often to eat them, visit www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/CitizensInfoCenterHome/Pages/citizensinfocenter/fishandshellfish/index.aspx or contact MDE at 410-537-3906.

www.OcFishing.com | 800.322.3065

OCEAN CITY'S FISHING HEADQUARTERS

If you're looking to fish while in Ocean City, look no further. The OC Fishing Center is home to over 20 charter boats accommodating budgets of all sizes. Transient and seasonal slips are always available there's no tidal surge or bridges to travel under.

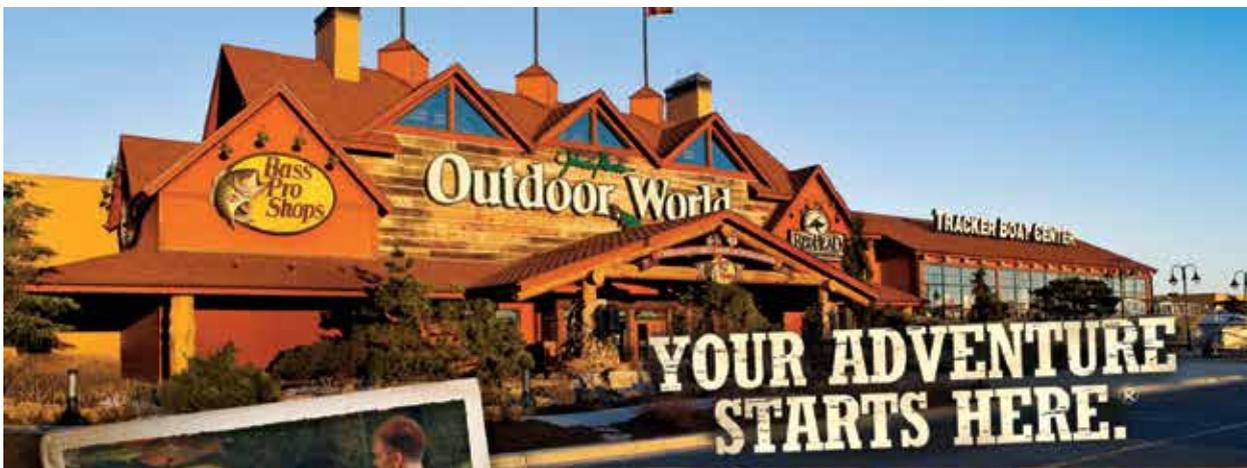
Our marina boasts a swimming pool, bath house, laundry facility, bait, tackle and a well-stocked gift shop. We are within walking distance to outlet shopping and Ocean City's famous boardwalk.



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ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Licensing & Registration Service Centers

- **Fishing License Call Center**
855-855-3906
- **Annapolis Service Center**
1804 West Street, Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-260-3220
866-344-8889 (toll free in Maryland)
- **Central Maryland Service Center**
2 S. Bond St., Suite 101
Bel Air, MD 21014
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-836-4550
866-623-3187 (toll free in Maryland)
- **Dundalk Service Center**
7701 Wise Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21222
Hours: M,W,F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-284-1654
866-535-8319 (toll free in Maryland)
- **Eastern Maryland Service Center**
201 Baptist St., #22
Salisbury, MD 21801
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-713-3840
866-812-1678 (toll free in Maryland)
- **East Central Maryland Service Center**
120 Broadway Avenue
Centreville, MD 21617
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-819-4100
866-439-1708 (toll free in Maryland)
- **Southern Maryland Service Center**
6904 Hallowing Lane
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-535-3382
866-688-3823 (toll free in Maryland)
- **Western Maryland Service Center**
3 Pershing Street, Room 103
Cumberland, MD 21502
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
301-777-2134
866-679-0906 (toll free in Maryland)

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Offices

24 Hour Natural Resources
Emergency Assistance:

800-628-9944 or 410-260-8888

Use these phone numbers to report natural resources violations or ask questions on fisheries regulations.

All offices are open Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm.

- **Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties**
32144 Mt. Olive Rd.,
Salisbury, MD 21804.
- **Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne's Counties**
3001 Starr Rd.,
Queen Anne, MD 21657.
- **Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties**
1070 East College Parkway,
Annapolis, MD 21409.
- **Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties**
2160 Old Washington Road,
Waldorf, MD 20601.
- **Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties**
3738 Gwynnbrook Ave.,
Owings Mills, MD 21117.
- **Frederick and Washington Counties**
2011 Monument Rd.
Myersville, MD 21773.
- **Allegany and Garrett Counties**
11701 Mountain Rd. N.E.,
Flintstone, MD 21530.

DNR Fisheries Service Information

410-260-8325, 877-620-8367 ext.8325

Trout Stocking Information

800-688-3467, press 2

Emergencies on Boats

VHF-CH 16

CATCH A POACHER 24-HOUR HOTLINE

Poaching deprives the public of the opportunity to use and enjoy Maryland's natural resources. Preserving our natural resources for present and future enjoyment is everyone's responsibility.

Citizens who use the poaching hotline to supply Maryland Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a poacher will be eligible to receive cash rewards.

Please provide names, addresses, vehicle and boat descriptions and as much additional information as you can.

Your anonymity is guaranteed.

800-635-6124

**Law Enforcement Division
of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
410-573-4514

**Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Safety
& Environmental 24 Hour Hotline**
877-224-7229 (toll free in Maryland)

Fisheries Service Offices

Headquarters

Annapolis, 410-260-8325

Tidal

- **Cooperative Oxford Lab**
Oxford, 410-226-0078
- **Matapeake Work Center**
Stevensville, 410-643-6776
- **Ocean City Work Center**
Ocean City, 410-213-1531

Nontidal

- **Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery**
Hagerstown, 301-791-4736
- **Allegany and Garrett Counties**
Oakland, 301-334-8218
- **Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties**
Brandywine, 301-888-2423
- **Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery Counties**
Woodbine, 410-442-2080
- **Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties**
Millington, 410-928-3604
- **Frederick and Washington Counties**
Thurmont, 301-898-5443 or 9724

NATURAL RESOURCE POLICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have what it takes and the desire to serve, we're interested in talking to you.

To begin your career as a Maryland Natural Resources Police officer, please contact Officer First Class Mance McCall at 866-430-0082, mmccall@dnr.state.md.us, or visit the Maryland Natural Resources Police Recruitment Facebook page.





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LICENSES, STAMPS & SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRATION

Term

Fishing licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

2013 Licenses, Stamps, Fees & Registration

Resident Nontidal	\$20.50
Resident 7-Day Nontidal	\$7.50
Non-Resident Nontidal	\$30.50*
Non-Resident 7-Day Nontidal	\$7.50*
Non-Resident 3-Day Nontidal	\$5.00*
*Or the same fee charged to visiting Maryland anglers by a non-resident's home state, whichever is higher.	
Resident Trout Stamp	\$5.00
Non-Resident Trout Stamp	\$10.00
Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License	\$5.00
(65 years or older in 2013)	
Resident Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License	\$15.00
Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License	\$6.00
Non-Resident Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License	\$22.50
Non-Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License	\$12.00

Consolidated Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Boat License \$50.00
 1. Passengers onboard licensed boats do not need a license. However, they must have a free Maryland Saltwater Angler registration (see below).
 2. A Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License is included for the boat owner who purchases this license. Fishing License Call Center: 855-855-3906.

Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration Free Online Registration

1. Unless individually licensed, a free registration is required for:
 - a) Passengers on boats with Consolidated Bay & Coastal Sport license
 - b) Anglers fishing in designated Free Fishing Areas
 - c) Waterfront property owners and family fishing on private property
 - d) Anglers in possession of a Virginia saltwater recreational fishing license
2. To register, go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/service or call the Fishing License Call Center — 855-855-3906.

Penalties

The Department may suspend an individual's fishing license or privilege if that individual is convicted of, or pays a fine for, violating certain fishing laws. A full copy of suspendable fishing violations can be found in the Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.13.05. To view this regulation, visit www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR. Individuals who are suspended for violating fishing laws in Maryland may also be suspended in other states under the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Who Needs A Maryland License Or Trout Stamp?

A person who is 16 years of age or older may not fish the waters of Maryland without first obtaining a license. Some anglers are exempt from the license requirement — see License Exemption section.

A trout stamp is required for anyone 16 years of age or older to fish in a Special Catch-and-Return Trout Management Area or possess trout taken from nontidal waters.

How Do I know Whether I Need A Tidal Or Nontidal Maryland Fishing License?

To see whether the area you are fishing requires a nontidal or tidal fishing license, please see Tidal / Nontidal Dividing Lines section.

Who Needs A Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration?

Anglers fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays, Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributaries must be licensed or registered with the state unless one of the following applies:

- You are under 16 years of age
 - You are fishing from a licensed charter boat
 - You are fishing on a free fishing day—the first two Saturdays in June and July 4
 - You are fishing from a licensed commercial fishing pier
 - You possess a valid commercial tidal fish license
 - You possess a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) created the National Saltwater Angler Registry in 2010. The angler registry is a survey tool to estimate recreational fishing catch in tidal waters. Maryland provides the required information to NOAA for Maryland licensed or registered anglers.

Complimentary Licenses

Any American veteran residing in Maryland who is 100% service-connected disabled or who is a former POW may apply for a free lifetime fishing license and trout stamp. Call 410-260-8325.

HELP SAVE MARYLAND'S ENDANGERED HELLBENDERS — PLEASE DO NOT KILL



John White

The hellbender is a large, dark, aquatic salamander that can live for more than 30 years and grow to over two feet long. Hellbenders can bite, and their protective coating of slime makes them difficult to handle. If you catch a hellbender on your fishing line, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let the animal go.

If you have seen or caught a hellbender, we would like to hear from you. Please call DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

License Exemptions

Maryland Sport Fishing License Exemptions

General Exemptions—you may fish for finfish without a license if:

- You are under 16 years of age
- You are a resident of MD, on active duty with Armed Forces, on leave with official orders
- You fish on a free fishing day designated by DNR (first two Saturdays in June and July 4th)
- You fish a hook and line (rod and reel) from a public bridge or pier which has been designated by DNR as a free fishing area and have registered with the state. A list of areas is available at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries.

Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

A person may fish for finfish without a license in Maryland's nontidal waters if the person is:

- A veteran hospitalized in a veteran's hospital for a service connected disability (contact Fisheries Service for permit information).
- A patient under treatment by a state-approved mental health facility or an individual who attends or resides in a state-approved health and mental hygiene facility. (Contact Fisheries Service for permit information).
- A caregiver, family member or designee of a mental health care facility or private group home, and is caring for a patient who is under treatment by a state-approved mental health facility (Contact Fisheries Service for more information).
- An owner or tenant, their spouse, children or the spouses of their children residing on the property and fishing from the property's riparian shoreline. Anglers should confirm riparian ownership before fishing as some impoundments and waterways are surrounded by buffers; in these areas, there are no riparian shoreline owners and fishing licenses are required. Anglers with riparian shorelines must comply with all fishing laws and regulations.

Trout Stamp Exemptions

A trout stamp is not required for possession of trout taken from privately owned lakes and ponds or licensed fee fishing lakes and ponds stocked with trout artificially propagated by, or purchased from, persons licensed by the state to sell fish. Maryland residents holding valid Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing or Lifetime Service Disabled Veteran or Former POW Licenses are not required to purchase a trout stamp. Call DNR Fisheries Service for information, 410-260-8325.

Maryland Tidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

You may fish for finfish without a license in tidal waters of the state if you:

- Possess a valid commercial fishing license.
- Fish from private property as an owner or family member of an owner and have registered with the state.
- Are fishing from a licensed charter boat.
- Are registered with the state and are fishing from a boat with a Consolidated Bay & Coastal Sport Boat License.

Reciprocal Licenses

Virginia

- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia nontidal fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the mainstem of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Virginia.
- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland, so long as they complete the Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration.
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sportfishing License issued in that person's name can fish from the Virginia banks of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Maryland without a Virginia fishing license.
- Residents of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License may fish in Virginia tidal saltwater, so long as they complete the Virginia Saltwater Angler Registration.

West Virginia

- A resident of West Virginia possessing a valid West Virginia fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River (mainstem only) opposite the shore of West Virginia, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir (opposite the shore of West Virginia).
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sportfishing License issued in that resident's name may fish the West Virginia banks of the Potomac River, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir, without a West Virginia fishing license.

Pennsylvania

- A resident of Pennsylvania possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in the portions of the



Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Maryland without a Maryland fishing license.

- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sportfishing License issued in that resident's name may fish on the of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Pennsylvania without a Pennsylvania fishing license.
- Reciprocal fishing privileges extend from waters edge to waters edge. It does not include tributaries or fishing from shore.
- The Maryland-Pennsylvania dividing line in the Conowingo Reservoir is from the Railroad Tunnel white marker in Cecil County to Michaels Run in Harford County.

Potomac River

- A holder of a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland.
- A holder of a valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License may fish any portion of the main stem of the Potomac River downstream of the I-95 Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS AND RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check with the Department's website for possible changes at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/proposedregulations.asp

An advertisement for BoatUS Angler Insurance Coverage. It features a photo of three people on a boat. The text reads: "INSURANCE COVERAGE For your Boat & Equipment". Below the photo, it lists: "Agreed Value coverage", "Broad cruising area", "Optional fishing guide coverage", "Tournament coverage", and "Fishing equipment coverage". To the right, it says: "For a free quote call 866-532-1829", "BoatUSAngler.com", "mention priority code 4886", and the "BoatUS ANGLER INSURANCE PROGRAM" logo. At the bottom, it states: "Policies subject to limits and exclusions."

RECREATIONAL CRABBING LICENSES

Term

Crabbing licenses are valid from April 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

2013 Licenses & Fees

Maryland Resident	\$5.00
Non-Resident	\$10.00
Maryland Resident who possesses a Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License or a Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License	\$2.00
Recreational Crab Boat License*	\$15.00
Consolidated Chesapeake Bay Sport & Coastal Boat License*	\$50.00

An individual under 16 years of age may crab without a license in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and is restricted to the same limits as an unlicensed crabber.

*One individual crabbing license is included for the individual who purchases this license.

License Exemptions

A license is not required of anyone who uses only the following gear and takes the following quantity of crabs:

- 10 or fewer traps and rings or combination of traps and rings
- Dipnet
- Handlines
- No more than 2 dozen hard crabs
- No more than 1 dozen soft crabs or peelers

A license is not required for a private shoreline property owner or lessee.

A maximum of two crab pots per waterfront property may be used, regardless of the number of property owners or lessees.

A license is not required to recreationally harvest crabs in the Coastal Bays, tributaries and the Atlantic Ocean.

Who Needs A Maryland Recreational Crabbing License?

Anyone who uses the following gear or takes the following quantity of crabs must possess a recreational crabbing license:

- Trotline—1200 feet of baited line maximum allowed. Floats must be the same size, color and shape
- 11 to 30 traps or rings or combination of traps and rings
- Up to 10 eel pots for own bait
- More than 2 dozen with a limit of 1 bushel of hard crabs
- More than 1 dozen with a limit of 2 dozen soft crabs or peelers

TAKE A CHILD CRABBING IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

An individual under 16 years of age may crab without a license in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and is restricted to the same limits as an unlicensed crabber.



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SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Nontidal Sport Fishing

It Is Illegal

1. To use more than 3 rods at one time, except for ice fishing.
2. To use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.
3. To use more than 5 rods (hand held devices) or tip-ups for ice fishing.
4. To cut a hole through the ice measuring more than 10 inches in any direction for the purpose of ice fishing.
5. To take bait fish of any description from any Put-and-Take Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
6. To use a spear or spear gun:
 - a) Within 100 yards of any private or public swimming areas, scuba diver's flag, (other than that used by the spear fisherman), vessel in the water, or person without specific advance permission.
 - b) In Special Trout Management Areas, state-owned ponds and lakes or Put-and-Take Trout fishing areas.
 - c) To shoot any trout, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, large and smallmouth bass, muskellunge or tiger muskie, with a spear gun or spear in the nontidal waters of the state.
7. To use a trotline:
 - a) In nontidal waters anywhere except in the mainstems of the Potomac and Monocacy rivers.
 - b) In any waters during April, May and June and between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EDT any day.
 - c) Made of metallic material, or having more than 75 single hooks, or more than 300 feet long, or baited with scale bait.
 - d) To catch walleye, smallmouth bass or largemouth bass.
 - e) Not identified with a metal tag securely attached to it showing the name and address of the person operating it.
 - f) Anchored from one shore to the other.
8. In Deer and Swan creeks in Harford County:
 - a) For a person to catch or attempt to catch fish other than by hook and line, with line held in hand, attached to a pole or rod held in hand, or attended in a manner that the fish voluntarily takes bait or lure in its mouth.
 - b) For a person to possess or use minnows for bait while fishing.
9. Bush-bobs/bank poles:
 - a) For anyone other than a resident to use bush-bobs or bank poles.
 - b) For residents to use more than 25 bush-bobs or bank poles, or any bush-bobs or bank poles having more than 1 hook to a pole or bob.
 - c) To use bush-bobs or bank poles except in the mainstems of the Potomac and Monocacy rivers within Carroll, Washington and Frederick counties.
 - d) To use bush-bobs or bank poles between sunrise and sunset.
 - e) To use bush-bobs or bank poles on any streams stocked with trout.
 - f) To use a bush bob or bank pole baited with scale bait or live bait to catch suckers, catfish, carp, eels, gudgeons and every species of sunfish, including bluegills and rock bass, commonly known as redeye.
10. Dip net:
 - a) For anyone other than a resident to use a dip net in the Susquehanna River in Cecil and Harford counties; anywhere in Allegany and Washington counties; and the Monocacy and Potomac rivers in Carroll and Frederick counties.
 - b) To use a dip net from April 16 to December 31 inclusive.
 - c) To use a dip net within 50 yards of the mouth of a tributary or the breast of any dam.
 - d) To use a dip net in trout-stocked nontidal waters of the state, any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area (landing nets used to land fish are not considered dip nets.)
 - e) To use a dip net to fish for any trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, or tiger muskie.
 - f) For anyone to use a baited dip net by attaching an attractant to the net material or frame.
11. For a non-resident:
 - a) To fish in nontidal waters of the state with nets of any description.
12. To use a gig to catch all trout species, frogs, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie and largemouth and smallmouth bass.
13. To snag fish with hooks, except for snakeheads.
14. To use a trap in nontidal waters.
15. To remove the head and tail of fish in possession while at the fishing location, except for snakeheads. The head and tail shall remain attached in such a manner as to permit identification of fish species and total length. A person may take snakehead fish from Maryland waters by any legal means provided that the head of the snakehead fish is immediately removed, or the body is gutted, or the gills are removed from both sides of the fish, or the fish is filleted upon capture.
16. To disturb, take, destroy or possess the nest or eggs of a terrapin or snapping turtle.
17. For a person to catch snapping turtles from waters of the state by hook and line, trotline, bow and arrow, net, seine, fish pot, or other fishing rig, spear, gig or iron or any device capable of piercing any part of the turtle at any time.
18. To use a bow and arrow:
 - a) To shoot or attempt to shoot any fish in a Put-and-Take Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
 - b) To shoot or attempt to shoot any fish in state-controlled community ponds or lakes.
 - c) To shoot all trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie and largemouth and smallmouth bass.
19. To trespass or fish any waters closed to the public for fishing by the Department.
20. To operate any vehicle on any lands owned or controlled by the Fisheries Service without written permission from the Service except on those roads, lanes or areas which are open to automobile traffic or which are specifically marked by the Service.
21. To camp on lands owned and controlled by the Fisheries Service except on designated sites or with written permission.
22. To swim in any state-controlled lake except in designated areas.
23. To cut any brush, trees or shrubbery on the C&O Canal National Historical Park unless authorized by the National Park Service of the federal government.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Take your trash and that of others with you. Pack it in — pack it out. Do not dispose of unused bait on or near the water. Clean your fish at home. Be considerate of others and their outdoor experience. Avoid impacting stream banks and lake shores.

24. Battie Mixon Fishing Hole:
 - a) To fish in Battie Mixon Fishing Hole in Allegany County between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
 - b) To use boats propelled by gasoline or diesel power on the waters of Battie Mixon Fishing Hole (electric motors only).
25. To throw, dump, deposit, or cause to be thrown, dumped or deposited, any trash, junk or other refuse upon any of the waters of this state.
26. To fish any streams or nontidal waters that contain trout between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. (This does not apply to nontidal impoundments of five acres or more.)
27. To cull trout.
28. To use a seine:
 - a) That exceeds six feet in length or four feet in depth or ¼ inch mesh to catch bait fish.
 - b) Within 50 yards of the mouth of any river or tributary or the base of a dam.
 - c) In state waters stocked with trout, any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
29. Regarding crayfish in the Susquehanna River, Middle Potomac River, Monocacy River and Upper Potomac River basins, to:
 - a) Catch any species of crayfish unless the head is immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture.
 - b) Use any species of crayfish as bait unless the head is removed behind the eyes.
 - c) Possess any species of crayfish while fishing unless the head is removed behind the eyes.
 - d) Catch and possess a female crayfish with eggs attached to the underside of the abdomen.
30. To buy, sell, or offer to buy any fish harvested from the nontidal waters of the state.
31. To use a cast net in nontidal waters.
32. To feed any wildlife in Fisheries Management Areas.
33. To use waders or boots soled with felt or any other natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.

Tidal Sport Fishing

Chesapeake Bay & Tidal Tributaries and Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays & Tidal Tributaries

It Is Legal

1. Between June 15 and December 31 of each year, for an individual to take or shoot fish with a spear gun or spear,

within specific seasons and limits established by the Department.

2. To take or shoot carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads (blowfish), American eel, sea lamprey, stingrays or other ray fish with a spear gun or spear.
3. To take or shoot carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads (blowfish), sting rays or any other ray fish with a vertical bow and arrow (except crossbow).
4. To use a seine up to 50 feet in length and 5 feet wide to obtain bait minnows.
5. To use a cast net by hand with a radius of 10 feet or less to catch baitfish in any tidal water of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.
6. To keep any size white perch if caught by hook and line.
7. To use an “umbrella rig” that has no more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks.
8. To catch and release American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring or alewife herring.

It Is Illegal

1. To have in one’s possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland any striped bass cut up or filleted at any time. Striped bass must be landed whole.
2. To have in one’s possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland more than 15 cut up pounds of any fish upon which a size or weight limit is prescribed by law or regulations.
3. To use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks. Sabiki rigs are not legal in Chesapeake Bay or in Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Multiple hook rigs including Sabiki rigs are allowed in the Atlantic Ocean.
4. To use a dip net in the Susquehanna River above the mouth of Deer Creek except to land a fish caught by hook and line.
5. To operate a boat within the area 400 yards below or 400 yards above the Conowingo Dam.
6. To take or have in one’s possession American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife herring, Atlantic sturgeon, or shortnose sturgeon.
7. To use waders or boots soled with felt or any other natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.
8. To intentionally snag any fish other than: carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads, sting rays, or any other ray fish.

General Definitions

Artificial Fly

A lure constructed by winding natural or synthetic material such as feathers, fur, hair, tinsel, thread, fiber, wire, plastic, cork, or rubber on or about the hook, and designed to be cast by means of a fly rod.

Artificial Lure

Following is a partial list of items considered artificial lures: spinners, spoons, plugs and molded facsimiles of worms, insects and fish. For the purposes of these regulations, artificial flies and streamers are considered to be artificial lures.

Bait

Any item that emits an odor or scent such as worms, minnows, crayfish, insects, doughballs, corn, cheese, bread, meat and marshmallows. The addition of any scent to an artificial lure or fly to make it smell like bait, makes it bait.

Circle Hook

Means non-offset hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank. Circle hooks used in bait fisheries should be non-offset. That is, if the hook is laid on a flat surface, all parts of the hook lie flat on the surface.

Cull

After being in possession of a fish, to discard or exchange that fish to possess another fish of the same species.

In Aggregate

A catch of related fish species counted together.

Possession

Refers to any condition where a fish cannot freely swim away.

Stinger Hook

Means any hook which trails another hook, either by direct physical attachment to the lead hook or by a connective device such as a swivel or chain, and is part of the same bait or lure.

Trolling

Means the method of angling in which fish are attracted to a lure or bait being trailed from a boat which is being moved by mechanical power.

SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL & POSSESSION LIMITS

The following tables summarize rules governing the harvest and possession of fish species that anglers commonly catch in Maryland. This is an abridged summary and does not include all regulated species. Full information and updates are available at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp.

NONTIDAL HOOK & LINE

NONTIDAL HOOK & LINE					
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS		CLOSED SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	6 inches			Daily – 25 Possession – 25	Eels may not be taken by gig in any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
BAITFISH (Including madtoms)				Daily – 35 in aggregate Possession – 35 in aggregate	
BASS (largemouth & smallmouth)	12 inches or as provided for by special regulations.		March 1– June 15	Daily – 5 in aggregate Possession – 10 in aggregate	Catch & Release is permitted at all times.
BIVALVE/SHELLFISH (mussels & clams)			No Open Season		
CARP	None			Daily – 15 Possession – 30	
CHAIN PICKEREL	14 inches			Daily – 5 Possession – 5	
CHANNEL CATFISH	None			Daily – 5 Possession – 10	
CRAPPIE	None			Daily – 15 Possession – 30	
HERRING (alewife & blueback)			No Open Season		
MUSKELLUNGE & TIGER MUSKIE	36 inches			Daily – 1 Possession – 1	
NORTHERN PIKE	30 inches			Daily – 2 Possession – 2	
SHAD (American/white & hickory)			No Open Season		Catch & Release is permitted.
STRIPED BASS (rockfish & hybrid striped bass)	18 inches			2 striped bass/striped bass hybrid per day, only one of which may be over 30 inches.	Striped bass and hybrid striped bass in nontidal waters may be taken only from Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Triadelphia Reservoir, Conowingo Reservoir, Broadford Lake, Jennings Randolph Reservoir and Rocky Gorge Reservoir. See table footer for contact information.
SUCKERS	None			Daily – 30 Possession – 60	
SUNFISH, including bluegills & rock bass (commonly known as red eye or goggle-eye)	None			Daily – 15 in aggregate Possession – 30 in aggregate	
TROUT – statewide (all species of trout)	None — Except as provided in special trout management area regulations.		Open Year Round – Except as provided in special trout management area regulations.	Daily – 2 in aggregate Possession – 2 in aggregate — Except as provided in special trout management area regulations.	
TROUT – Put-and-Take Areas (all species of trout)	None			Daily – 5 in aggregate Possession – 5 in aggregate	See Put-and-Take section for specific requirements.
WALLEYE	Minimum Size: 15 inches year round, and during January 1–April 15 the minimum size is 15 inches with a maximum size of 20 inches, in the Potomac River mainstem approximately 0.5 miles upriver from Chain Bridge to the spillway in Cumberland.		There is no closed season for Walleye, except on Deep Creek Lake and the Youghiogheny River downstream of the Route 42 bridge from March 1–April 15	Daily – 5 Possession – 5	
WHITE PERCH	None			None	
YELLOW PERCH – statewide except as noted	9 inches			Daily – 10 Possession – 10	The possession of yellow perch eggs requires prior authorization from DNR.
	Deep Creek Lake	None		Daily – 10 Possession – 20	
	Nontidal lakes and ponds	None		None	

Special Closures:

1. Magothy River from the base of Lake Waterford Dam downstream for 3,300 feet is closed to all fishing during February, March, and April.
2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet during February, March, and April.

Contact Information for Restricted Areas: **Baltimore City Reservoirs** — For Prettyboy and Liberty (boat permits required) information, rules, and regulations, call Watershed Control Division 410-795-6150 or Loch Raven Fishing Center 410-887-7692. **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Lakes** — Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge fishing by permit only. For permits, rules and regulations call the information center at Brighton Dam 301-774-9124.

SPECIAL FISHING AREA – YOUGHIOGHENY RESERVOIR

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS		SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL (as bait fish)	8 inches		Open Year Round	50 per day	
BAIT FISH, FISH BAIT (except mud bugs)	None		Open Year Round	50 in aggregate per day	
BASS – largemouth, smallmouth & spotted	Open Season	15 inches	Jan. 1 through the day before opening day of regular trout season and Nov. 1–Dec. 31	4 in aggregate per day	Catch and immediate release only, no tournaments permitted.
	No Harvest Season		The opening day of regular trout season through the first Friday after June 11.	None	
	Summer/ Early Fall Season	12 inches	The first Saturday after June 11–Oct. 31	6 in aggregate per day	
GIZZARD SHAD	None		Open Year Round	50 in aggregate per day	
MUD BUGS (dragonfly nymphs)	None		Open Year Round	Unlimited if taken from lakes, ponds, swamps and adjacent areas. 50 per day if taken from rivers and streams.	
MUSKELLUNGE & TIGER MUSKIE	40 inches		Open Year Round	1 in aggregate per day	
NORTHERN PIKE	24 inches		Open Year Round	2 per day	
PADDLEFISH			Closed Year Round		
PICKEREL	18 inches		Open Year Round	4 per day	
SAUGER	12 inches		Jan. 1–March 14 and the first Saturday in May through Dec. 31.	6 per day	
STRIPED BASS & HYBRID STRIPED BASS	20 inches		Open Year Round	2 in aggregate per day	
SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH, WHITE PERCH, CRAPPIES, CATFISH, ROCK BASS, SUCKERS, CARP & WHITE BASS	None		Open Year Round	50 in aggregate per day	
TROUT & SALMON (all species)	Regular Season	7 inches	8 a.m. the first Saturday after April 11 to midnight Labor Day.	5 in aggregate per day	
	Extended Season	7 inches	Jan. 1 through the last day of February, and the day after Labor Day through Dec. 31.	3 in aggregate per day	
WALLEYE	15 inches		Jan. 1–March 14 and the first Saturday in May through Dec. 31.	6 per day	

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SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL & POSSESSION LIMITS

CHESAPEAKE BAY & ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	CLOSED SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
BLACK DRUM	16 inches		Daily – 1 Daily boat limit – 6	
BLACK SEA BASS	Creel, minimum size and season to be announced — www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries			
BLUEFISH	8 inches		Daily – 10	
CATFISH	None			
CHAIN PICKEREL (pike)	14 inches	March 15 – April 30	Daily – 10	
CROAKER (hardhead)	9 inches		Daily – 25	
EELS	6 inches		Daily – 25	
SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)	Creel, minimum size and season to be announced — www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries			
BASS (largemouth & smallmouth)	15 inches March 1–June 15		Daily – 5 in aggregate	
	12 inches June 16 through last day in February			
RED DRUM (channel bass or puppy drum)	18–27 inches		Daily – 1	
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches		Daily – 15	Must be landed with head and fins intact.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches		Daily – 10	
STRIPED BASS				See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass section — page 40
WHITE PERCH	None if caught with hook & line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear			
WALLEYE	15 inches		Daily – 5	
WEAKFISH	13 inches		Daily – 1	
YELLOW PERCH	9 inches		Daily – 10	

The taking of American shad, hickory shad, alewife herring, blueback herring, Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon is prohibited.

Areas Closed to Fishing — February, March and April:

1. Magothy River from Lake Waterford dam downstream for 3,300 feet.
2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet.

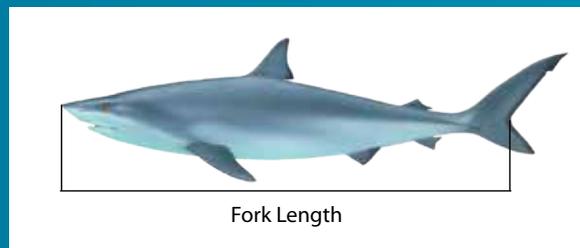
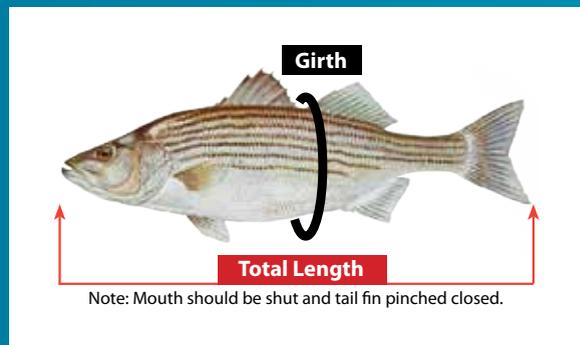
HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

Size limits are generally based on the total length of a fish. The total length of a fish is the maximum length with the mouth closed and the tail pinched together measured from the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this straight line measurement is to push the fish's snout against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and with the fish lying along a tape measure and then pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length.

Fork length refers to the measured length from the snout of a fish to the end of the middle caudal fin rays. This is the measurement for determining the legal size of a shark.

The girth of a fish is best measured with a fabric ruler. Measuring the girth is helpful in trying to determine if you have a possible record fish, which is determined by total weight. By using the total length and girth of a fish in inches you can get a rough estimate of the weight in pounds with this formula —

$$((\text{Girth in inches} \times \text{Girth in inches}) \times \text{Length in inches}) / 800 = \text{Approximate weight in pounds}$$



COASTAL BAYS, COASTAL BAY TRIBUTARIES & ATLANTIC OCEAN

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	CLOSED SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	6 inches		Daily – 25	
BLACK DRUM	16 inches		Daily – 1 Boat limit – 6	
BLACK SEA BASS	Creel, Minimum Size and Seasons to be announced.			
BLUEFISH	8 inches		Daily – 10	
CROAKER (hardhead)	9 inches		Daily – 25	
DOLPHIN (fish)	None		Daily – 10 Boat limit – 60	
SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)	Creel, Minimum Size and Seasons to be announced.			
GROUPER SPECIES	None		Daily – 1	
LOBSTER *Please see additional recreational lobster information below	3½–5¼ inches carapace length	Feb. 1–Mar. 31	100 lobster/person/day or 500 lobster/trip for a 5-day trip when using gear other than lobster traps.	Must be landed whole. Spearing is prohibited.
RED DRUM (channel bass or puppy drum)	18–27 inches		Daily – 1	
SCUP (porgy)	8 inches		Daily – 50	See www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp for a list of species.
SNAPPER COMPLEX SPECIES	None		Daily – 20 in aggregate	Snapper complex species list — www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches		Daily – 15	
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches		Daily – 10	
STRIPED BASS (rockfish)	28 inches		Daily – 2	Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which stretches from three to 200 miles off the coast.
TAUTOG	16 inches	Nov. 27–Dec. 31	Jan. 1–May 15 and Nov. 1–Nov. 26, 4 per day May 16–Oct. 31, 2 per day	
TILEFISH SPECIES	None		Daily – 7 in aggregate	
WEAKFISH	13 inches		Daily – 1	
WAHOO	None		Daily – 2	

The taking of American shad, hickory shad, alewife herring, blueback herring, Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon is prohibited.

***Gear: A lobster trap shall have:**

- A minimum of one rectangular escape vent which shall be a minimum of 2 inches by 5 ¾ inches; or
- A minimum of two circular escape vents which shall have a minimum diameter of 2 ¾ inches

It is unlawful to catch, land, possess, sell, offer to sell, or transport any:

- Lobster that is egg-bearing or from which eggs have been intentionally removed;
- Female lobster bearing a V-shaped notch which is:
 - A straight-sided triangular cut with or without setal hairs, at least 1/8 inch in depth and tapering to a sharp point in the flipper next to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster; or
 - Mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark.

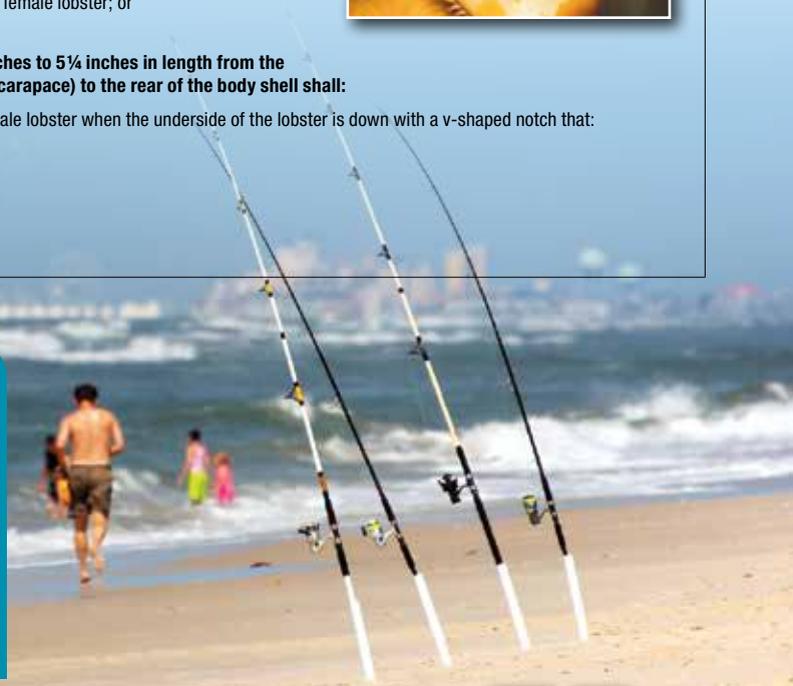


An individual who catches an egg bearing female lobster that measures 3½ inches to 5¼ inches in length from the rear end of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of body shell (carapace) to the rear of the body shell shall:

- Mark the lobster to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when the underside of the lobster is down with a v-shaped notch that:
 - Is made by means of a sharp bladed instrument;
 - Is at least ¼ inch in length;
 - Is not greater than ½ inch in depth; and
 - Tapers to a sharp point; and
- Immediately release the lobster.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We urge anglers to respect property rights and seek permission before attempting to park, fish or enter private property. The privilege of fishing and right of entry to private property is at the owner's discretion. Respect for landowners and their property helps to ensure continued fishing access. Poor behavior encourages landowners to post their property to prevent access. Remember that every angler pays for the improper actions of a few. Always be courteous and respectful.



PUT-AND-TAKE TROUT FISHING AREAS

The following restrictions apply to the areas listed:

- a) Season—areas are closed to all fishing from 10:00 p.m. of the first date, to 5:30 a.m. of the second date during the closure periods listed in the following schedule except as provided for by special regulation or where more restrictive fishing hours are posted.
- b) Creel Limit (all species of trout) in aggregate—5 Daily / 5 Possession.
- c) Minimum Size—no minimum size.

2013 Closure Schedule

- Closure 0—No Closure
- Closure 1—From the first Sunday after March 4 to the last Saturday in March.
- Closure 2—From Sunday to Saturday of the last full week of March.
- Closure 3—From the first Sunday after April 8 to the following Saturday.
- Closure 4—From the first Sunday after April 15 to the following Saturday.



Areas Subject to Provisions of this Section:

Allegheny County

Battie Mixon Ponds	0
Cotton Cove Pond in Glendening Recreational Complex at Frostburg	2
Dans Mountain Pond	0
Evitts Creek—mainstem upstream of Interstate Route 68	1, 3
Evitts Creek Ponds.....	0
Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed.....	1, 4
Flintstone Creek Watershed.....	1, 3
Georges Creek—mainstem from the upper extent of Town Park in Westernport upstream to Neff Run.....	1, 3
Jennings Run—mainstem downstream of the confluence of North Jennings Run	2, 3
Lake Habeeb (Rocky Gap Lake)	0
Lions Park Pond, Frostburg (area subject to user restrictions by the City of Frostburg)	0
North Branch Potomac River mainstem— from Allegheny County line downstream to the upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge in Westernport.....	0
North Jennings Run Watershed	2, 3
Orchard Pond	0
White Sulfur Pond	0
Wills Creek—mainstem upstream of the US Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project at The Narrows above Cumberland	1, 3

Anne Arundel County

Severn Run—mainstem upstream of Maryland Route 3.....	1, 4
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Baltimore County and Baltimore City

Avalon Pond (Lost Lake).....	0
Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from a red post located 1.6 miles downstream of Corbett Road downstream to the hiker/biker bridge located approximately one mile downstream of Phoenix Road; and from Cromwell Bridge downstream to the Interstate Route 95 bridge	1, 4

Gwynn Oak Park Pond	0
Gwynns Falls—mainstem below Maryland Route 140	0
Jones Falls—mainstem below Lake Roland ..	0
Little Falls—mainstem from Wiseburg Road upstream to Valley Mill Road	1, 4
Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Route 165.....	1, 4
Patapsco River—mainstem from the B&O Viaduct upstream to Bloedes Dam	1, 3
Stansbury Park Pond.....	0

Calvert

Calvert Cliffs Pond.....	0
Hutchins Pond	0

Caroline

Tuckahoe Creek.....	0
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Carroll County

Beaver Run—upstream of Maryland Route 91	1, 3
Farm Museum Pond	2
South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem from West Friendship Road (Howard County side) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at Sykesville downstream to its confluence with the North Branch Patapsco River	1, 3
Piney Run—mainstem downstream from Arrington Road	1, 3
Piney Run Reservoir	0
Robert's Mill Pond	0

Cecil County

Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at Maryland Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line.....	1, 4
Howards Pond	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of Maryland Route 7	1, 4

Charles County

Hughesville Pond.....	0
Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management area — all ponds	0
Wheatley Lake	0

Frederick County

Cunningham Falls Lake	0
Fishing Creek—mainstem upstream of Fishing Creek Reservoir including left fork (Steep Creek)	1, 4
Frank Bentz Pond	2
Friends Creek Watershed	1, 4
Hamburg Pond	2
Middle Creek—mainstem from the Maryland Route 17 bridge near the junction of Bittle Road upstream to the confluence of Spruce Run	1, 4
Middletown Pond	0
Owens Creek—mainstem from Raven Rock Road downstream to Roddy Road (catch & return only from June 1 through last day of February).....	1, 4
Rainbow Lake	2
Urbana Lake	0
Whiskey Springs Pond	2
Woodsboro Community Pond	0

Garrett County

Accident Pond.....	1, 4
Bear Creek—Mainstem from the corner of Fish Hatchery Road and Rabbit Hollow Road downstream to the confluence with the Youghiogheny River at Friendsville	1, 3
Broadford Lake	0
Deep Creek Lake.....	0
Herrington Creek—mainstem	1, 4
Herrington Lake	0
Jennings Randolph Lake.....	0
Little Youghiogheny River—mainstem from Maryland Route 219 downstream to the Youghiogheny River	1, 4

TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE AND MAPS

Trout stocking schedule and maps are available at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking or by calling 800-688-3467, press 2.



Mill Run—mainstem downstream of uppermost bridge on Mill Run Road 1, 4

Muddy Creek—mainstem..... 1, 4

New Germany Lake 1

North Branch Potomac River mainstem— from Jennings Randolph Lake upstream approximately 6 miles to the lower boundary of Potomac State Forest; from the uppermost boundary of Potomac State Forest at Wallman upstream approximately 8.5 miles to a bridge at Old Wilson Road; from a red post located approximately 100 yards above the upstream concrete abutments at Barnum, West Virginia, downstream to a red post located below a pool known as Blue Hole, approximately 1/2 mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport U.S.G.S. Quadrangle, and from Piney Swamp Run downstream to the Allegany County line 0

Piney Reservoir 0

Savage Reservoir 0

Savage River—mainstem from Savage Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick 2

Snowy Creek mainstem 0

Youghiogheny River—mainstem upstream of the junction of Muddy Creek and from the upstream side of the Maryland Route 42 bridge downstream 0.4 miles to a site 50 yards downstream of Maple Street (at the confluence of Minnow Run)..... 0

Harford County

Deer Creek—mainstem from 1 mile south of Rocks State Park upstream to the bridge at Maryland Route 23 1, 3

Forest Hill Pond 2

Little Gunpowder Fall—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Maryland Route 165 1, 4

Howard County

Centennial Lake 0

Lake Elkhorn 0

Patuxent River—mainstem from base of Rocky Gorge Reservoir Dam in Laurel downstream to the B&O Railroad crossing.... 1, 3

South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem from West Friendship Road (Howard County side) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at Sykesville downstream to its confluence with the North Branch Patapsco River 1, 3

Montgomery County

Great Seneca Creek—from Maryland Route 28 upstream to Maryland Route 355 1, 3

Izaak Walton Pond 2

Lake Needwood 0

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Pond 2

Northwest Branch Watershed – upstream of Maryland Route 410 to Norwood Road 2

Pine Lake 2

Prince George's County

Allen's Pond 0

Cosca Lake 0

Greenbelt Lake 0

Lake Artemesia 0

Laurel Lakes 0

Melwood Pond 0

Schoolhouse Pond 0

Tucker Pond 0

Washington County

Antietam Creek—mainstem from upstream boundary of Devil's Backbone Park to the mouth of Beaver Creek..... 0

Beaver Creek—from the downstream side of the bridges on the private farm lane located below the Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery downstream to Black Rock Creek, and from Beaver Creek Road downstream to the confluence with Antietam Creek.... 1, 3

Blairs Valley Lake 0

Greenbrier Lake 0

Indian Springs Pond 2

Israel Creek 0

Licking Creek Mainstem..... 1, 3

Sharpsburg Community Pond 0

Sideling Hill Creek Watershed 1, 4

Wicomico County

Beaverdam Creek—in Salisbury from Schumaker Dam downstream to the bridge crossing at Memorial Plaza Road 0

Worcester County

Shad Landing Pond..... 0

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SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS — TROUT

Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas — Limited to Artificial Fly Fishing

Areas:

- Big Hunting Creek, Frederick County — All waters of Big Hunting Creek and its tributaries within Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park except Owens Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Cunningham Falls Lake and Frank Bentz Pond.
- Beaver Creek, Washington County — From the confluence with Black Rock Creek downstream approximately 1 mile to a red post located 0.1 mile above Beaver Creek Road.
- Patuxent River, Montgomery and Howard Counties — From red bank posts located on both sides of the river, approximately 400 yards below Brighton Dam downstream to Mink Hollow Road.

Restrictions:

- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All caught trout must be immediately released and returned to the water.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and streamers constructed in a normal fashion using natural and/or synthetic materials, which may include feathers, fur, hair, tinsel, thread, fiber, plastic, cork, wire and rubber on a single hook with the components wound on or about the hook. Specifically prohibited are the use of molded replicas of insects, earthworms, fish eggs, fish or any invertebrate or vertebrate either singly or in combination with other materials, or other lures commonly described as spinners, spoons, or plugs made of metal, plastic, wood, rubber or similar substance or a combination of these.
- You may only use conventional fly fishing tackle, fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached. Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited. The use of spinning, spincast, and casting reels is prohibited.
- Except for artificial flies and streamers, you may not use or possess any natural bait, or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish in these areas.
- The open season is from January 1 through December 31.

Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas — Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures

Areas:

- Patuxent River, Howard and Montgomery counties — The mainstem of the Patuxent River from the crossing of Maryland Route 97 upstream to the crossing of Maryland Route 27 and Cabin Branch from its confluence with the Patuxent River upstream to Hipsley Mill Road.
- Morgan Run, Carroll County—From bridge on London Bridges Road upstream to bridge on Maryland Route 97.
- Paint Branch and tributaries, Montgomery County—Upstream of Fairland Road.
- Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore County—Mainstem from Prettyboy Reservoir Dam downstream to Bluemount Road.
- North Branch Potomac River — From an overhead cable and red bank post located approximately 510 yards below the Jennings Randolph Reservoir spillway downstream approximately one mile to a red post, located approximately 100 yards above the upstream concrete abutments at Barnum, West Virginia, and from a red post located below a pool known as Blue Hole, approximately 1/5 mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport U.S.G.S. Quadrangle, downstream approximately 4 miles to the confluence of Piney Swamp Run.
- Youghiogheny River, Garrett County—Mainstem beginning at a red post approximately 100 yards upstream of the Deep Creek Lake tailrace and extending downstream 4 miles to the Sang Run Bridge.
- Little Hunting Creek, Frederick County — Mainstem from a red post located approximately 0.25 mile downstream of Route 806, upstream approximately 1 mile to the upper boundary of Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area.

Restrictions:

- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All caught trout must be immediately released and returned to the water.
- You may only use artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- The use or possession of any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with scent capable of catching fish is prohibited.
- The open season is from January 1 through December 31.

Trophy Trout Fishing Areas — Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures and Flies

Area: Savage River mainstem from the downstream side of the Rt.135 Bridge upstream for a distance of approximately 2.7 miles to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge).

Restrictions:

- You may fish only with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Artificial lures are restricted to single hooks with single hook points.
- Except for artificial lures and artificial flies, you may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish while fishing in this area.
- There is no closed season.
- Two fish creel limit for all species of trout combined.
- The possession limit is two fish.
- Minimum Sizes:
 - Brook trout — 12 inches
 - Brown trout — 18 inches
 - All other trout species — no minimum size
- You may not have in possession any trout smaller than the minimum size limit in effect for this area.

Trophy Trout Fishing Areas — Limited to Use of Artificial Flies

Area: Savage River mainstem from the Savage River Reservoir Dam downstream to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge).

Restrictions:

- You may fish only with artificial flies and streamers.
- The use or possession of any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish is prohibited in this area.
- You may fish only with conventional fly fishing tackle (fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached). Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited.
- The use of spinning, spincast, and casting reels is prohibited.
- There is no closed season.
- Two fish creel limit for all species of trout combined.
- The possession limit is two fish.
- Minimum Sizes:
 - Brook trout — 12 inches
 - Brown trout —18 inches
 - All other trout species — no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit in effect for this area.

Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas

Group I Areas:

- Catoctin and Little Catoctin Creek, Frederick County — From U.S. Route 40 near its intersection with Maryland Route 17 within Doubs Meadow Park downstream to the lower park boundary near Myersville.
- Catoctin Creek, Frederick County — Within the boundaries of Catoctin Creek Park.
- Middle Patuxent River, Howard County — From U.S. Route 29 downstream to Murray Hill Road.
- Town Creek mainstem, Allegany County — Within Green Ridge State Forest, from a red post located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream of the upper ford on Lower Town Creek Road, just south of the Wagner Road intersection, downstream to a red post located just upstream of the lower ford on Lower Town Creek Road (Mallory Place), and from a post located approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream of Manifold Road to a red post located approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream (Bull Ring Ranch).

Restrictions:

- From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From October 1 through May 31, you:
 - May not have any trout in possession while fishing.
 - Must immediately release any trout caught to the water from which the trout was taken.
 - Anglers may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

Group II Areas:

- Casselman River mainstem, Garrett County — From a boundary marked by two red posts on both stream banks located on the south side of the Interstate 68 eastbound bridge downstream to the Pennsylvania state line.
- North Branch Potomac River mainstem, Garrett County — From the lowermost boundary of the Potomac State Forest near Lostland Run to the uppermost boundary of the Potomac State Forest at Wallman.
- Youghiogheny River mainstem, Garrett County — Below Friendsville from a site located 50 yards downstream of Maple Street (at the confluence of Minnow Run) downstream 1.8 miles to the powerline crossing upstream of the Youghiogheny Reservoir.

Restrictions:

- From June 16 through September 30, the daily creel limit and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From October 1 through June 15 you:
 - May not have any trout in possession while fishing in these areas.
 - Must immediately release any trout caught to the water from which the trout was taken.
 - Anglers may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish in these areas.

Put-and-Take / Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Area

Area: Owens Creek, Frederick County — Mainstem from Raven Rock Road downstream to Roddy Road.

Restrictions:

- From March 1 through May 31:
 - No bait, lure or tackle restrictions are in effect
 - Put-and-Take Trout Area regulations apply.
- From June 1 through the last day of February:
 - You may not possess trout in these areas, and
 - You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish in this area.

Zero Creel Limit Area — All Species of Trout

Area: North Branch of the Potomac River from the Upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge at Westernport downstream to the Route 956 bridge at Pinto.

Restrictions:

- No closed season.
- Zero creel and possession limits for all trout species.
- No tackle restrictions.

Zero Creel Limit Area — Brook Trout

Area: Savage River mainstem and tributaries upstream of the Savage River Reservoir dam, excluding the impoundments and Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas—Savage River Reservoir, Savage River from Savage River Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick Run, and New Germany Lake.

Restrictions:

- No closed season.
- Zero creel and possession limits for brook trout.
- Two fish creel and possession limit for all other trout species combined.
- Fishing is restricted to the use of artificial flies and artificial lures.
- You may not use or possess natural or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish while fishing in these areas.



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FISH IDENTIFICATION



Coastal Bays & Atlantic Ocean



Nontidal



Chesapeake Bay

American Eel

6" Minimum creel 25



Chain Pickerel

14" minimum, creel 5 (nontidal); 10 (tidal)
Angler Award Size 24"



Smallmouth Bass

12" minimum, creel 5**
except 15" 3/1-6/15
Angler Award Tidal & Nontidal Size 20"



Black Crappie

No minimum size, creel 15
open year round
Angler Award Size 15"



Channel Catfish

No size limits,
nontidal creel limit - 5; no tidal creel limit
Angler Award Size 30"



Striped Bass (rockfish)

See striped bass section for size,
creel and season regulations
Angler Award Nontidal Award Size 36"
Angler Award Chesapeake & Coast Size 40"



Black Drum

16" minimum, creel 1
Angler Award Size 48"



Largemouth Bass

12" minimum*, creel 5**
except 15" 3/1-6/15
Angler Award Size 21"



Walleye

15" minimum, (20" max from Jan. 1-April 15), creel 5
Angler Award Size 26"



Black Sea Bass

Check website for updates
Angler Award Size 20"



Muskellunge

36" minimum, creel 1
Angler Award Size 40"



White Perch

No minimum size or limit if caught hook & line; 8"
minimum if caught with any other gear
Angler Award Size 13"



Brook Trout

No minimum size*, creel 2* in aggregate
Angler Award Size 12"



Northern Pike

30" minimum, creel 2
Angler Award Size 38"



Yellow Perch

9" minimum, creel 10 (tidal); no minimum size or creel
in nontidal lakes except creel of 10 in Deep Ck. Lake.
Angler Award Size 14"



Brown Trout

No minimum size*, creel 2* in aggregate
Angler Award Size 21"



Rainbow Trout

No minimum size*; creel 2* in aggregate
Angler Award Size 20"



Bluefish

8" minimum, creel 10
Angler Award Size 34"



Croaker (hardhead) ● ●

9" minimum, creel limit 25
Angler Award Size 18"



Spanish Mackerel ● ●

14" minimum, creel 15
Angler Award Size 22"



Summer Flounder (fluke) ● ●

Check website for updates
Angler Award Size 24"



Spotted Seatrout ● ●

14" minimum, creel 10
Angler Award Size 24"



Red Drum ● ●
(channel bass, puppy drum)

18" minimum & 27" max slot limit, creel 1
Angler Award Size 36", Catch & Release Only



Tautog ●

Check website for updates.
Angler Award Size 24"



Scup ●
(porgy)

8" minimum, creel 50



Weakfish ● ●

13" minimum, creel 1
Angler Award Size 24"

* except where otherwise indicated in nontidal limits

** smallmouth & largemouth bass in aggregate

Fish artwork by Duane Raver/USFWS

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Youth, Senior and Blind Angler Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Jones Falls, Baltimore County — Jones Falls and tributaries above Stevenson Road to their source.
- Laurel Run (Moscow), Allegany County.
- Pangborn Pond, Washington County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County—Restrictions in effect from March 1 through May 15. On May 16, the area returns to limited harvest with no age restriction.
- Boonsboro Pond, Washington County— Behind Boonsboro Free Library off of MD Route 34.

Restrictions:

- Fishing is limited to anglers who are under 16 years old, 65 years and older, or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.

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Youth and Blind Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Carroll Creek, Frederick County— From a red post located 300 yards upstream of Baughmans Lane, downstream to the dam at College Avenue.
- George's Creek, Allegany County — Within Town Park in Westernport.
- Glades Park Pond, Garrett County — On Liberty Street in Oakland.
- Little Tonoloway Creek, Washington County — within Weidmeyer Park in Hancock.
- Little Antietam Creek, Washington County — At Keedysville, from Coffman Farms Road downstream to Maryland Route 34.
- Parkview Pond, Garrett County — Off Hershberger Lane in Grantsville

Restrictions:

- Limited to anglers who are under 16 years old or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.

Limited Harvest Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Allens Pond, Prince George's County
- Bowie Town Center Pond, Prince George's County.
- Cosca Lake, Prince George's County.
- Farm Museum Pond, Carroll County.
- Governor's Bridge Natural Area Pond, Prince George's County
- Greenbelt Lake, Prince George's County.
- Hughesville Pond, Charles County.
- Hutchins Pond, Calvert County.
- Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County.
- Merkle Wildlife Management Area, Prince George's County — All ponds located within the area boundaries
- Milltown Landing Pond, Prince George's County.
- Myrtle Grove Pond, Charles County.
- Pemberton Pond, Wicomico County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County — Age restricted March 1 through May 15
- Roberts Field Pond, Carroll County.
- Robert's Mill Pond, Carroll County.
- South Germantown Park Pond, Montgomery County, in South Germantown Park.

- Tucker Pond, Prince George's County.
- Westminster Community Pond, Carroll County.

Restrictions:

- You may not possess more than 10 fish, only one of which can be a largemouth bass.
- If these areas are also on the put-and-take trout fishing list, as many as 5 fish of the 10 fish limit may be trout species.
- You may possess one largemouth bass per day not to exceed 15 inches in length.
- There is no minimum size for largemouth bass in these areas.

Impoundments Limited to Catch-and-Return Fishing

You may not possess any fish in these areas:

- Lake Hashawa, Carroll County.
- Upper John Owings Pond, Carroll County.
- Waterworks Park, Anne Arundel County — City of Annapolis

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BASS FISHING

Trophy Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Blairs Valley Lake, Washington County.
- Centennial Lake, Howard County.
- Chesapeake Ranch Estates, Calvert County — All ponds
- Johnson Pond, Wicomico County.
- Leonard Mill Pond, Wicomico County.
- Little Seneca Lake, Montgomery County.
- Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, St. Mary's County — All ponds
- St. Mary's Lake, St. Mary's County — Located on Maryland Route 5

Restrictions:

- You may possess no more than 5 bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass combined) per day while fishing in these areas.
- None of these fish in possession can measure between 11 and 15 inches long.
- Only one of these fish in possession may be 15 inches or longer.

Catch-and-Return Bass Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Potomac River — From Dam No. 2 (Seneca Breaks) upstream to the mouth of the Monocacy River.
- Monocacy River — From the Potomac River upstream to Buckeystown Dam.
- North Branch Potomac River — From the spillway in Cumberland upstream approximately 25 miles to U.S. Route 220 Bridge at Keyser, West Virginia.
- Patapsco River — From Interstate 70 downstream to Maryland Route 144 (Frederick Road).
- Wheatley Lake, Charles County.

Restrictions:

- Possession of largemouth or smallmouth bass in these areas is illegal.
- You must immediately release any largemouth or smallmouth bass into the water where it was caught.

BLACK BASS TOURNAMENT PERMITS

A black bass tournament permit is required if all of the following conditions apply:

- The tournament has 10 or more boats participating.
- The tournament has a specific location where fish are weighed, measured, counted or otherwise entered.
- The tournament provides anglers an offer, reward or incentive for catching black bass.

Tournament catch data from these tournaments will be used to assess catch trends, estimate resource usage, and evaluate the value of black bass fishing to state and local economies. Detailed summaries of these data will be provided to registered tournament directors each year.

For tidal bass information and tournament registration, go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/bass. The application deadline is either 15 days prior to the tournament if the contest will have between 10 and 50 boats. The deadline is 30 days prior for tournaments with 50 or more boats.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please Be Responsible and Careful When Handling Fish That You Intend to Release.

BASIC FISH HANDLING TIPS

1. Don't hold your fish out of the water for more than 30 seconds.
2. When air temperature is greater than 85° F, reduce the time out of water.
3. Don't let your fish hit the ground or the boat deck. Hold them over the water in case they are dropped.
4. Use a soft landing net (rubber or small nylon mesh) or firmly hold the fish with a wet rag or glove while removing the hook.
5. Try reviving fish that do not appear lively by opening its mouth and pulling it forward to force water over the gills.

FISHING TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE SURVIVAL

1. Use a non-offset circle hook when using bait to reduce the potential for injury to the fish.
2. Use barbless hooks with artificial bait. Barbs can be pinched down with pliers or filed off.
3. Always have pliers, dehookers or hemostats handy for deeply hooked fish.
4. Leave hooks in fish that have swallowed them and cut the line as close to the mouth as possible.

Additional information is available at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/articles/catch_release.html.



SPECIAL TIPS FOR BLACK BASS AND OTHER LIVE RELEASE TOURNAMENTS

1. Use an effective culling strategy that minimizes wounding the fish.
2. Wipe down live wells and transport tanks thoroughly before using them.
3. Remove dead fish from live wells and store in an ice chest.
4. Use ice and water exchanges to keep live well water temperatures within 5–7° F of ambient water temperature.
5. Perform partial water exchanges every 30 minutes for 3 to 5 minutes using good quality water.
6. Use an aerator and continuous recirculation to provide enough dissolved oxygen.
7. When transporting black bass by bag, be sure enough water is in the bag to cover the fish.

POTOMAC RIVER REGULATIONS & SAFETY TIPS



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Regulations

A person aboard a vessel, raft or tube shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while on the upper Potomac River and its tributaries, during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each November 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding May 15. This regulation is in addition to class III, IV, and VI White Water Stream segment regulations which require PFDs to be worn.

Class III rapids (hazardous)

Dam # 3 to Knoxville Falls.

Class IV rapids (significant hazard to life)

Great Falls (foot of falls) to Chain Bridge

Class VI rapids (extreme risk to life)

Great Falls area from the base of the aqueduct dam to a line from the foot of the main falls on the Virginia shoreline to the Maryland shoreline below Olmstead Island.

Safety Tips

ALWAYS wear an approved personal flotation device while on the Potomac.

Leave a float plan with someone at home describing where you are going, who you're with and when you expect to return. Know the weather predictions for the area.

REMEMBER the river currents are strong and unpredictable, especially after heavy rains. Wading should NOT be attempted when the river levels exceed the normal level.

River Flow Information

- Jennings Randolph Lake (North Branch Potomac) and Savage River Dam projected releases — 410-962-7687 or online: www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/mapserver/index.html
- Potomac River flow at Hagerstown — 301-223-6377
- Youghiogheny River white water release schedule—315-413-2823 or online: www.deepcreekhydro.com
- Susquehanna riverflow at Conowingo — 888-457-4076
- Conowingo Dam spill hotline — 877-457-2525
- U.S. Geological Survey flow information for all Maryland waters—<http://md.water.usgs.gov>



Embraced by miles of scenic Chesapeake Bay waterways, and graced with acres of pastoral rural landscape, Queen Anne's County offers a relaxing environment in which to find peace of mind. An ideal habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, this setting is the perfect spot for birdwatchers and sportsman alike.

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PUBLIC LAKES & PONDS

The use of boats or motors on ponds and lakes is subject to local restrictions. Consult with local authorities before making your trip.

* Designates locations with boat ramp facilities.

ALLEGANY COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
BATTIE MIXON FISHING HOLE	MD Route 51 at Oldtown	33
COTTON COVE POND	Lion's Park Glendening Recreational Complex in Frostburg	1
DAN'S MOUNTAIN POND	MD Route 36 two miles east of Lonaconing	1
EVITTS CREEK COMMUNITY PONDS	I-68, Exit 46 four miles east of Cumberland	4
LIONS PARK POND	Frostburg (subject to user restrictions by the city of Frostburg)	1
ORCHARD POND	MD Route 51 Green Ridge State Forest	2
* ROCKY GAP LAKE (LAKE HABEEB)	I-68, Exit 50 five miles northwest of Flintstone	243
WHITE SULPHUR COMMUNITY POND	I-68, Exit 62 Green Ridge State Forest, 12 miles east of Flintstone	1
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY		
FRIENDSHIP PARK POND	Route 778, Friendship	1
FRIENDSHIP POND	MD Route 170	1
LAKE WATERFORD	Route 648 near Severna Park	11
PATUXENT PONDS	Patuxent Road near Conoways	3.2
WATERWORKS PARK	by permit only	1.5
BALTIMORE COUNTY		
AVALON POND (LOST LAKE) GLEN ARTNEY AREA	within Patapsco Valley State Park, entrance on South St. off MD Rt.1	1
GWYNBROOK COMMUNITY POND	off U.S. Route 140 near Owings Mills	1.3
HILLCREST POND	MD Route 144 at Lansdowne	4
LAKE ROLAND	MD Route 139 Baltimore	98.2
* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	MD Route 26 near Ward's Chapel	3100
* LOCH RAVEN RESERVOIR	MD Route 146; Dulaney Valley Road	2400
* PRETTYBOY RESERVOIR	off MD Route 25 and U.S. Route 111, Beckleysville Road	1500
CALVERT COUNTY		
CALVERT CLIFFS PARK POND	Route 4, near Lusby	1
HUTCHINS POND	off Mt. Harmony Road, off Route 2, near Sunderland	2.3
CAROLINE COUNTY		
CHAMBERS LAKE	MD Route 306 in Federalsburg	6
* SMITHVILLE LAKE	U.S. Route 404 east to Noble Road	40

CARROLL COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
BENNETT CERF POND	off MD Route 27 within Random House Industrial Park	1
FARM MUSEUM POND	west of MD Route 32 near Westminster	4.7
LAKE HASHAWHA	off Rinehart Road	1
* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	Route 26 near Wards Chapel	3100
NORTH CARROLL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 30 at Manchester	1.2
* PINEY RUN RESERVOIR	MD Route 32 near Eldersburg	300
ROBERT'S MILL POND	east of Taneytown, north of Route 140	2
UPPER JOHN OWINGS	John Owings Road	0.5
WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 140 at Westminster	1.3
CECIL COUNTY		
* CONOWINGO RESERVOIR	U.S. Route 1 at Conowingo	4000
ELKTON COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 281 east of MD Route 213	1.3
RISING SUN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 273 in Rising Sun	1
* STEMMERS LAKE	Stemmers Run Road at MD Route 282 — telephone 410-356-9272 for permission	90
CHARLES COUNTY		
* GILBERT RUN PARK (WHEATLEY LAKE)	MD Route 6; east of Oliver's Shop	75
HUGHESVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 5 at Hughesville	1
* MYRTLE GROVE LAKE	MD Route 225 near Ripley	23
DORCHESTER COUNTY		
GALESTOWN LAKE	Galestown Road east of MD Route 313	15
FREDERICK COUNTY		
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 79 at Brunswick House Industrial Park	1
* CUNNINGHAM FALLS LAKE	MD Route 77 west of Thurmont	42
EMMITSBURG RESERVOIR (RAINBOW LAKE)	Hampton Valley Road near Emmitsburg	8
FRANK BENTZ MEMORIAL POND	MD Route 77 west of Thurmont	2
GAMBRILL'S COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 40 near Frederick	1
LIBERTYTOWN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 75 at Libertytown	1
URBANA COMMUNITY POND	Dixon Road off Route 80 at Urbana	5

GARRETT COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
ACCIDENT COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 219; Accident	1
* BROADFORD LAKE	MD Route 135 at Mt. Lake Park	230
* DEEP CREEK LAKE	U.S. Route 219, McHenry	3900
* HERRINGTON MANOR LAKE	U.S. Route 219 five miles north of Oakland	44
* NEW GERMANY LAKE	I-68, Exit 22 six miles south of Grantsville	10
PINEY RESERVOIR	U.S. Route 40 Alt. north on Piney Run Road east of Grantsville	18
PLEASANT VALLEY LAKE	MD Route 495 twelve miles south of Grantsville	18
* JENNINGS RANDOLPH LAKE	MD Route 135 south on Mt. Zion Road five miles from Kitzmiller on West Virginia Route 46	952
* SAVAGE RESERVOIR	MD Route 135 on Savage River Road	350
* YOUGHIOGHENY RESERVOIR	MD Route 42 two miles north of Friendsville	800
HARFORD COUNTY		
BYNUM RUN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 22 at Bel Air	1.1
* CONOWINGO RESERVOIR	Broad Creek Landing and Glen Cove Marina — Darlington, MD	4000
CHURCHVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 155 at Glenville Road	1.5
DUBLIN DELL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 136 in Dublin	1
FOREST BRANCH PARK	Joppatowne, Foster Branch Road	1
FOREST HILL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 23 at Forest Hill	1.3
HOWARD COUNTY		
* CENTENNIAL LAKE	Columbia	50
LAKE ELKHORN	Columbia	37
GUILFORD PARK POND	MD Route 32 off Interstate 95	0.5
LAKE KITTAMAQUONDI	Columbia	31
WILDE LAKE	Columbia	22
KENT COUNTY		
MILLINGTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PONDS (4)	Massey Delaware Line Road, east of Massey—telephone 410-928-3650 for permission	3.7
SASSAFRAS NRMA POND	Kennedyville	2
* URIVILLE COMMUNITY LAKE	MD Route 213 north of Chestertown	35
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
CLOPPER LAKE	within Seneca State Park	90
* DUCKETT RESERVOIR	MD Route 198 and U.S. Route 29 Burtonsville	800
KINGS COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 355 and MD Route 121 Clarksburg	1
LAKE FRANK	MD Route 115 near Norbeck	54
LAKE NEEDWOOD	MD Route 115 near Norbeck	74
* LITTLE SENECA LAKE	near Boyds	505
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK POND	1120 Jackson Road, Silver Spring	5
PINE LAKE	MD Route 97 near Wheaton	5
* TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR	off MD Route 650 near Brighton	800

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
ALLENS POND	MD Route 197 near Bowie	10
BOWIE TOWN CENTER POND	off Mitchellville Road, Bowie	8
CEDARVILLE POND	off Cedarville Road in Cedarville State Forest	4
COSCA LAKE	Thrift Road south of Clinton	11
DUCK POND	U.S. Route 193 and Adelphi Road in University Hills Park	1
GREENBELT LAKE	off Crescent Road in Greenbelt Park	21
LAKE ARTEMESIA	Branchville Road, Berwyn Heights	38
LAUREL LAKE	Route 1 and Cherry Lane, Laurel	11
MELWOOD COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 223, Woodyard Road between MD Routes 4 and 5	1.3
MERKLE PONDS	Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, off Fenno Road	2
MILLTOWN LANDING POND	Patuxent River Park, off Milltown Landing Road	1
SCHOOLHOUSE POND	across from County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro	4
TUCKER POND	Tucker Road near Oxon Hill	1.4
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY		
* TUCKAHOE LAKE	Rt.404 east to Rt. 480 to Eveland Rd to Crouse Mill Rd.	43
* UNICORN LAKE	MD Route 313 south of Millington	45
* WYE MILLS COMMUNITY LAKE	MD Route 662 south of U.S. Route 50	50
ST. MARY'S COUNTY		
* ST. MARY'S LAKE	MD Route 5, Calloway	250
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
* BIG POOL	I-70, exit 12 MD Route 56 east of Fort Frederick State Park	88
* BLAIRS VALLEY LAKE	Blairs Valley Road north from Clearspring	35
BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 67 at Brownsville	1.2
* GREENBRIER LAKE	Greenbrier State Park, U.S. Route 40 near Hagerstown	42
INDIAN SPRINGS COMMUNITY POND	Mooresville Road eight miles west of Clear Spring	1.3
LITTLE POOL	off MD Route 615 east of Hancock	18
WICOMICO COUNTY		
* JOHNSONS LAKE	Isabella Street at U.S. Route 50 to Lake Street	108
* LEONARDS MILL LAKE	U.S. Route 13 north of Salisbury	30
POWELLVILLE POND	MD Route 354 in Powellville	4
SHUMAKER LAKE	MD Route 12 in Salisbury	35
WORCESTER COUNTY		
BIG MILLS LAKE	Big Mills Road west of MD Route 12	10
MOORE'S POND	U.S. Route 13 near Pocomoke City	2

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TIDAL / NONTIDAL DIVIDING LINES

The following boundaries are designated as dividing lines for tidal and nontidal waters. These boundary lines are for the purpose of delineating those areas in which the nontidal fishing license or the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing license is required. If you are fishing upstream of the location listed, nontidal fishing regulations apply. If you are fishing downstream of the location listed, tidal regulations apply.

Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties

- Anacostia River
 - a) Northeast Branch Bridge at north-bound lane of Alternate Route 1 Bladensburg Road
 - b) Northwest Branch Bridge at south-bound lane of Rhode Island Avenue
- Furnace Branch — Maryland Route 2
- Patuxent River
 - a) Mainstem: bridge on Maryland Route 214
 - b) Lyons Creek: Maryland Route 4
 - c) Stocketts Run: confluence with the river
 - d) Rock Run: confluence with the river
 - e) Ferry Branch: confluence with the river
- Magothy River — Catherine Avenue
- Marley Creek — Maryland Route 10
- Severn River — bridge on Maryland Route 3
- South River and its tributaries:
 - a) North River: Rutland Road
 - b) Bacon Ridge Branch: Chesterfield Road
 - c) Beards Creek: Maryland Route 214
 - d) Broad Creek: Harry S. Truman Parkway

Baltimore County

- Big Gunpowder Falls — three-fourths of a mile south of Maryland Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge
- Little Gunpowder Falls — three-fourths of a mile south of Maryland Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge
- Stansbury Park Pond — Base of dam
- Stemmers Run — Golden Ring Road Bridge

Baltimore and Howard Counties

- Patapsco River — B&O viaduct at Relay

Calvert County

- Battle Creek — bridge about two miles east of Bowens (Sixes Road)
- Fishing Creek — one and one-half miles upstream from the mouth of the creek at Chesapeake Beach
- Hall's Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 4
- Hellen Creek — Mill Branch Road, near Solomons
- Hunting Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 263 about 100 yards west of Maryland Route 4
- Island Creek — Ross Road, near Brooms Island
- Lyon's Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 4

- Mills Creek — Maryland Route 760
- Parkers Creek — Maryland Route 765
- Plum Point Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 263
- Quaker Swamp — Maryland Routes 2/4
- St. Johns Creek — Maryland Route 4
- St. Leonard's Creek — Parran Road

Caroline County

- Chapel Branch — Maryland Route 313 near Piney Grove Church
- Choptank River — bypass on Maryland Route 313 on the outskirts of Greensboro
- Fowling Creek — wooden bridge on Stratum Road about one mile below Maryland Route 16
- Hunting Creek — Maryland Route 331
- Marshyhope Creek — at its confluence with Faulkner Branch
- Mill Creek — Maryland Route 16
- Tuckahoe Creek — abandoned stone railroad bridge upstream of Maryland Route 404
- Watt's Creek — bridge on American Legion Road

Cecil County

- Big Elk Creek — Maryland Route 213
- Bohemia River — Telegraph Road
- Happy Valley Branch — confluence with Susquehanna River
- Little Elk Creek — U.S. Route 40
- Mill Creek — Old Elk Neck Road
- North East River — Maryland Route 7
- Octoraro Creek — bridge on U.S. Route 222
- Principio Creek — Amtrak crossing below Maryland Route 7
- Rock Run — confluence with the Susquehanna River

Charles, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

- Henson Run — bridge on Old Broad Creek Road
- Hoghole Run — Maryland Route 6
- Mattawoman Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 225
- Nanjemoy Creek and its tributaries:
 - a) Mainstem: Maryland Route 6
 - b) Mill Run (Burgess Creek): Maryland Route 6
 - c) Hill Top Fork: Maryland Route 6
 - d) Wards Run: Maryland Route 6
- Oxon Creek (Run) — Maryland Route 210
- Patuxent River and its tributaries:

- a) Swanson Creek: Maryland Route 381
 - b) Mataponi Creek: St. Thomas Church Road
 - c) Spice Creek: Maryland Route 382, Croom Road
 - d) Full Mill Branch: Maryland Route 382, Croom Road
 - e) Black Swamp Creek: Maryland Route 382, Croom Road
- Piscataway Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 224 (Livingston Road)
 - Pomonkey Creek — Fenwick Road
 - Port Tobacco Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 6
 - Potomac River — Little Falls at man-made dam
 - Western Branch — bridge on Maryland Route 4
 - Wicomico River — Allens Fresh, bridge on Maryland Route 234

Dorchester County

- Chicamomocomo River — U.S. Route 50
- Transquaking River — dam at Higgins Mill Pond

Harford County

- Bynum Run — Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on Maryland Route 7
- Deer Creek — railroad bridge located at the mouth of Deer Creek
- Gray's Run — CSX Railroad crossing upstream of U.S. Route 40
- James Run — Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on Maryland Route 7
- Winter's Run — dam located one half mile south of Maryland Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road.

Kent and Queen Anne's Counties

- Chester River — 500 yards upstream from the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge at Millington at the point where the Cypress Branch empties into the Chester River
- Herring Branch — Maryland Route 299
- Morgan Creek — Wallis Road
- Red Lion Branch — at its confluence with the Chester River
- Sassafras River — Maryland Route 299
- Unicorn Branch — U.S. Geological Survey weir just east of Maryland Route 313
- Wye East River — Wye Mills Lake dam

St. Mary's County

- Budds Creek — Maryland Route 234
- Chaptico Run — Chaptico Bridge on Maryland Route 234
- Dynard Run — Maryland Route 242
- Eastern Branch — Maryland Route 5
- Gilbert Swamp Run — Maryland Route 234
- Great Mills Run — bridge on Maryland Route 5
- McIntosh Run — Maryland Route 5
- Park Hall Run — Maryland Route 5
- St. Clements Creek — Maryland Route 234 bridge at town of Clements
- Tomakokin Creek — Maryland Route 470
- Town Run — bridge on Maryland Route 5

Susquehanna River

- Conowingo Dam — at U.S. Route 1

Wicomico and Worcester Counties

- Beaverdam Creek — dam just upstream of U.S. Route 13 (Business)
- Nassawango Creek — Furnace Road
- Pocomoke River — bridge on Whiton Crossing, three miles south of Powellville
- Wicomico River — Isabella Street in Salisbury

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY

Help DNR characterize recreational catch and harvest by submitting data from your fishing trips through the Volunteer Angler Survey. You can help by providing data for:



Bluefish



Black Bass Tournament



Striped Bass



Blue Crab



Yellow Perch



Summer Flounder



Muskellunge

Participation is easy! Visit our website: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/survey/

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INVASIVE SPECIES

The introduction of invasive and non-native species can cause irreversible changes in the food web. They are typically long-lived, fast growing, opportunistic feeders. Invasive species can be a serious threat to our native and naturalized species. For information on invasive and non-native species and to see a list of species prohibited from transport, visit dnr.maryland.gov/invasives.

Snakehead



Please Catch and Kill Northern Snakeheads

The northern snakehead population is thriving in the Potomac River and its tributaries after being illegally introduced several years ago. It is against Maryland, Virginia, and Federal laws to possess, import, or transport live northern snakehead.

If you catch a snakehead and want to keep it, you must immediately kill the fish by removing its head, gutting it or removing its gill arches. The capture and possession of dead and dismembered snakeheads is not subject to any season, creel limit or size limit.

DNR asks anglers to report snakeheads caught outside of the Potomac River and its tributaries or upstream of Great Falls. Send catch information to fishingreports@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-260-8325 to help DNR track the range of the species.

Federal law prohibits the importation of live snakeheads to the U.S. or transport of live snakeheads across state lines without a permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

If you catch a northern snakehead with a blue tag, please report the tag number and the location, date and time of day where and when the fish was caught to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 800-448-8322.

Blue & Flathead Catfish

DNR asks anglers to remove and kill any blue and flathead catfish that they catch. Catch and release of these fish is discouraged, as they are invasive top predators and pose a serious long-term threat to our native species. In Maryland, it is illegal to transport live blue and flathead catfish for the purpose of introduction into another body of water. Violators can be fined up to \$1,000.

In January 2012, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team adopted a Chesapeake Bay Invasive Catfish Policy to reduce blue and flathead catfish populations, stem their spread, and mitigate impacts on native fish populations and ecosystems. MD DNR policy and regulations regarding blue and flathead catfish may change in 2013. For the latest information relating to blue and flathead catfish policy or regulatory changes, please visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives/index.asp.

To report illegal transport or unauthorized introductions of invasive species please contact the Natural Resources Police at 800-635-8124.

Blue catfish and channel catfish are similar. Please understand and recognize the difference to avoid the inadvertent spread of the invasive blue catfish.



Blue Catfish

Anal Fin Squared with 30 to 36 Fin Rays



Channel Catfish

Anal Fin Rounded with 24 to 29 Fin Rays

Chinese Mitten Crab



The first Chinese mitten crab documented in Chesapeake Bay was found in 2006 at the mouth of the Patapsco River. It migrates from nontidal rivers and tributaries to reproduce in salt water. Young crabs spend 2–5 years in nontidal tributaries and can extend up to 50 miles inland.

How to identify a mitten crab:

- Claws equal in size with white tips and hair. A crab without hair on the claws is likely not a mitten crab.
- Light brown to olive carapace up to four inches wide.
- This crab has eight sharp-tipped walking legs, but no swimming legs.

If you find a mitten crab, freeze or keep it on ice and call the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) mitten crab hotline at 443-482-2222 or contact SERCmittenCrab@si.edu.

FISH IMPORTATION

It is illegal to introduce any fish species into Maryland waters except bait fish on a hook for angling.

This is to prevent the introduction of disease and the spread of fish that could compete with native species.

To import or stock fish in Maryland, suppliers must register with the Department and comply with Maryland fish health requirements to ensure that stocked fish do not impact resident fish.

A permit is required to stock fish into any Maryland waters, including private ponds. Contact customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-260-8325 for more information on registering and obtaining a permit.

Do not release aquarium fish to the wild, and never transfer fish from one area to another.



Maryland's MOST UNWANTED

Non-native species can invasively colonize our waters and push out native species leading to negative impacts on water quality, fish habitat, and recreation.

Prevent the spread of harmful species:

REMOVE	and dispose of aquatic plants, mud, and debris from your boat, motor, trailer and gear before launching and after haul out.
DRAIN	all water from live wells, bilge, bait buckets, coolers, and motor immediately after use.
DISPOSE	of all unused bait far away from the water. Immediately remove the heads of crayfish in the Upper and Middle Potomac and Susquehanna River Basin.
RINSE	boat, motor, trailer, tackle, buckets and all gear, including SCUBA gear, with hot or high-pressure water.
DON'T STOCK	fish in any waters. The importation, introduction and transport of aquatic species are prohibited by law.
DON'T TRANSFER	live fish from one area to another.
DON'T RELEASE	aquarium fish into the wild.

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BLUE CRABS — CHESAPEAKE BAY & ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

Season

April 1 to December 15.

Harvest Restrictions

The recreational harvest of female hard crabs or peeler crabs is not permitted.

Time of Day

- Time restrictions in rivers, creeks and tributaries are:
 - April and October through Dec. 15— One half hour after sunrise to sunset.
 - May through September—One half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Time of day restrictions in Chesapeake Bay are:
 - April and October through Dec. 15— One half hour after sunrise to 5:00 p.m.
 - May through September – One half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m.
 - On private property, crabbing using crab pots, dip nets and handlines is permitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- It is illegal to set, place or fish crabbing gear prior to or after the prescribed time restrictions.

Day of Week

Day of week restrictions – no recreational crabbing is allowed on Wednesdays except:

- when using crab pots from private piers;
- when using handlines or dip nets; or
- during a week when a state or federal holiday falls on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Minimum Size Limits

(measured from tip to tip of spikes)

- Male Hard Crab
 - April 1 to July 14 — 5 inches
 - July 15 to December 15 — 5¼ inches
- Male Peeler Crab
 - April 1 to July 14 — 3¼ inches
 - July 15 to December 15 — 3½ inches
- Soft Crab
 - April 1 to December 15 — 3½ inches

It is Illegal for a Recreational Crabber:

- To sell crabs.
- To possess an egg-bearing (sponge) crab or any female hard or peeler crab.
- To set or fish a trotline, collapsible trap or crab net ring within 100 feet of another individual's trotline.
- To fish crab pots which belong to another person.
- To set a trap or ring without a buoy bearing the name of the owner unless attached to a pier, wharf or boat.
- To harvest crabs while SCUBA diving.

Daily Creel/Possession Limits

LICENSE	DAILY CREEL / POSSESSION LIMIT	
	HARD CRABS	PEELER OR SOFT CRABS OR A COMBINATION OF PEELER & SOFT CRABS
LICENSED INDIVIDUAL OR LICENSED BOAT	1 bushel	2 dozen
UNLICENSED INDIVIDUAL	2 dozen	1 dozen
LICENSED BOAT WITH ONE LICENSEE ON BOARD	1 bushel	2 dozen
LICENSED BOAT WITH 2 OR MORE LICENSEES ON BOARD	2 bushels	2 dozen
UNLICENSED BOAT WITH 2 OR MORE LICENSEES ON BOARD	2 bushels	2 dozen
UNLICENSED BOAT WITH NO LICENSEES ON BOARD	4 dozen	1 dozen
License = 1 Recreational Crabbing License; OR 1 Recreational Crab Boat License; OR 1 Consolidated Chesapeake Bay Sport & Coastal Boat License.		
While using a seine, regardless of the number of individuals, the daily catch and possession limit is: 2 dozen hard crabs and 1 dozen peelers, soft crabs, or combination of peelers and soft crabs.		

It is Legal for a Recreational Crabber without a License:

- To use any number of seines, dip nets, and handlines.
- To use no more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps and crab net rings per person.
- Regardless of the number of owners or lessees, to set a maximum of two crab pots at their property that:
 - Are marked with the owner's name and address; and
 - Are set in front of the person's property, within 100 yards of the shore; and either:
 - » attached by a line to the property or a privately owned dock or pier; or
 - » marked by a buoy or pole and sign; and
 - Have two cull rings: one measuring at least 2⅜ inches and one at least 2⅝ inches, located in the exterior side panel or the top panel of the pot; and
 - Have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape with dimensions not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.

It is Legal for a Recreational Crabber with a License to Use:

- All of the gear that an unlicensed recreational crabber may use.
- Up to 1200 feet of trotline with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end regardless of the number of licensees on board.
- Up to 30 or a combination of 30 collapsible crab traps and crab net rings per licensee or per boat regardless of the number of licensees on board. If your traps or rings are unattended, they must be labeled with your name.
- Up to 10 eel pots for catching your own crabbing bait. Your pots must be labeled with your name and may not be set in a buoy-free channel.

COLLAPSIBLE CRAB TRAPS

Collapsible crab traps must have a flat bottom measuring no more than 20 inches by 15 inches and have no more than four articulated sides. Crab net rings must have a rim less than or equal to 30 inches in diameter.

BLUE CRAB IDENTIFICATION



SALLY — CANNOT HARVEST

An immature (adolescent) female blue crab, known as a Sally or She-Crab, is easily identified as having an inverted "V" or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



SOOK — CANNOT HARVEST

A mature (adult) female blue crab, known as a Sook is identified as having an inverted "U" or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



JIMMY — CAN HARVEST

A mature male blue crab, known as a Jimmy, has a long, narrow, inverted "T" shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

Steven C. Zinski (www.bluecrab.info) (3)

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BLUE CRABS — COASTAL BAYS, TRIBUTARIES & ATLANTIC OCEAN

Season

Recreational crabbing is allowed from April 1 to December 31.

Harvest Restrictions

There are no license requirements or time of day restrictions.

Minimum Size Limits (measured from tip to tip of spikes)

- Male Hard Crabs — 5 inches
 - Male Soft Crabs — 3½ inches
 - Peeler Crabs
 - April 1 to July 14 — 3¼ inches
 - July 15 to December 31 — 3½ inches
 - Mature Female Crabs — no minimum size.
- The taking of sponge crabs is prohibited.

Recreational Crabbing Daily Catch Limits

The daily catch limit in the waters of the Coastal Bays of the Atlantic Ocean and their tidal tributaries is:

- One bushel per person.
- Two bushels per boat if two or more individuals are on the boat.

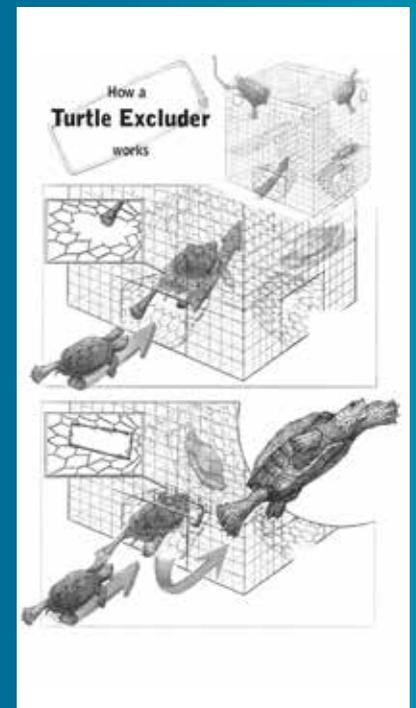


It is Legal

- **To crab in the Coastal Bays of Maryland's Atlantic Ocean and coastal tributaries using:**
 - No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
 - Not more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or
 - Dip nets and any number of handlines; or
 - Not more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps or crab net rings per person from docks, piers, bridges, boats or shoreline; or
 - No more than 25, or a combination of 25, collapsible crab traps or crab net rings, if two or more persons are in a boat.
- **For waterfront property owners to set a maximum of two crab pots at their property that:**
 - Are marked with the owner's name and address; and
 - Are set in front of the person's property, within 100 yards of the shore; and either
 - » Are attached by a line to the property or a privately owned pier or dock; or
 - » Are marked by a buoy or pole and sign; and
 - Have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape with dimensions not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long; and
 - Have one unobstructed 2⅝ inch cull ring on a side panel of the upper compartment and one 2⅝ inch cull ring on the lower compartment; and
 - The cull ring must be closed from April 23 – May 31.

TURTLE EXCLUDERS ARE REQUIRED

Turtle excluders are required in recreational crab pots in Maryland. These devices prevent terrapins from entering a crab pot without hindering blue crab entry. Without turtle excluders, terrapins can enter crab pots and drown. To get instructions to make your own turtle excluder visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/crabpot-trd/crabpot.asp



TAKE A CHILD FISHING

To "catch a fish" is one of the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, issued by Governor Martin O'Malley in April 2009 as part of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, an initiative to ensure all Maryland young people have the opportunity to connect with their natural world and grow to become informed and responsible stewards.

The Maryland My First Fish Program recognizes an angler that catches his or her first fish in Maryland. A special certificate will be awarded to the angler for this first fish. My first fish anglers under the age of 16 will automatically be enrolled in the Maryland Youth Fishing Club, sponsored by Maryland DNR — www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing.

Youth fishing rodeos are a great way to introduce a child to fishing — even if you have never been fishing yourself. Fishing rodeos are typically held at small ponds or lakes and are aimed at helping beginners successfully catch a fish. For information on youth rodeos in your area go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing.



It is Illegal:

- For an angler to use any gear other than handlines or rod & reel. Spear guns, spears, and bows and arrows are specifically prohibited for shark fishing.
- For an angler to sell, barter, or trade sharks or shark parts.
- For an angler to engage in shark finning. All sharks caught by an angler must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing.
- To fillet sharks at sea.
- To harvest any shark species not listed on the table.

It is Illegal:

For a Highly migratory species (HMS) Angling, Charter/headboat, and General Category (if participating in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament) permit holder to possess hammerhead sharks (great, smooth, or scalloped) or oceanic whitetip sharks simultaneously with billfish, tunas, or swordfish.

SEASON, HARVEST RESTRICTIONS, MINIMUM SIZE & DAILY CREEL/POSSESSION LIMITS

SHARK SPECIES APPROVED FOR RECREATIONAL HARVEST	CLOSED SEASON	MINIMUM FORK LENGTH	DAILY CREEL SHORE* (PER ANGLER)	DAILY CREEL VESSEL* (PER TRIP)
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK BLACKNOSE SHARK BONNETHEAD SHARK FINETOOTH SHARK SMOOTH DOGFISH SPINY DOGFISH	None	None	Each recreational shore angler is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per calendar day from this list of approved species.	Each recreational vessel is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per trip from this list of approved species.
BLUE SHARK COMMON THRESHER SHARK OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK PORBEAGLE SHARK SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK	None	54 inches	In addition, each recreational shore angler may harvest 1 of each of the following species per calendar day:	In addition, each recreational vessel may harvest 1 of each of the following species per trip:
BLACKTIP SHARK BULL SHARK HAMMERHEAD SHARK, GREAT HAMMERHEAD SHARK, SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK, SMOOTH LEMON SHARK NURSE SHARK SPINNER SHARK TIGER SHARK	May 15–July 15	54 inches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. Smooth dogfish 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. Smooth dogfish

*Sharks that are transported by a vessel are considered boat assisted, and regulated under the more restrictive vessel-fishing possession limits regardless of where they were caught.

Prohibited Species: All species not listed in the above table are prohibited.

Gear Restrictions

Anglers may use only handlines or rod & reel.

Shark Identification –

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/education/sharkkey/sharkkeynew.htm



Fork Length



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STRIPED BASS

It is Illegal:

- To possess any cut up or filleted striped bass at any time aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland. Striped bass must be landed whole.
- To use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.
- To use eels as bait while fishing for striped bass with hook and line from Dec. 16 through May 15, inclusive, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
- To cull striped bass.
- To possess striped bass while fishing from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m.
- To use a gaff to land striped bass.
- To take or shoot striped bass with a spear gun and spear in the tidal waters of the state.
- To fish for striped bass by any means or practice catch-and-release of striped bass in designated spawning areas from March 1 through May 31.
- To intentionally snag a striped bass.

To view maps of open catch-and-release and spring trophy season areas go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.

WHY EELS FOR BAIT ARE PROHIBITED IN THE SPRING

The use of eels as bait is prohibited during the Pre-season Catch & Release and Spring Trophy seasons because striped bass engulf eels and swallow the hooks. Deep hooked fish experience about 50% mortality. Shallow hooked fish have about 3.5% mortality over the course of the year and about 0.8% mortality in March and April.



The following tables summarize striped bass fishing, harvest and possession regulations.

This is an abridged summary. Full information and updates are available at: www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations.

CHESAPEAKE BAY & TIDAL TRIBUTARIES (excluding the Susquehanna Flats, Lower Susquehanna River & Northeast River)				
SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
JAN. 1 – FEB. 28	All MD portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed catch and release of striped bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks. • Eels may not be used as bait.
SPRING CATCH & RELEASE SEASON MARCH 1 – APRIL 19	Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.	No harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stinger (trailing) hooks are prohibited. • Barbless hooks are required when trolling. • Non-offset circle hooks or J hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch are required when using natural bait. • No more than 6 lines may be employed while trolling regardless of the number of anglers on board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These restrictions apply in all open catch and release areas from March 1 until 5:00 a.m., April 19 • Spawning rivers and the Upper Bay spawning area are off limits until June 1 to striped bass fishing. • Eels may not be used as bait • See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
SPRING TROPHY SEASON APRIL 20 – MAY 15	Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the MD-VA Line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers, except Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound	One fish per person per day 28 inches or longer.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eels may not be used as bait • See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
MAY 16 – MAY 31	Chesapeake Bay downstream from a line drawn from the south corner of Hart-Miller Island Dike to the end of MD Route 21 at Tolchester and south to the MD/VA line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers. EXCEPT: Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound; Chester River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Hail Point to Long Point to Ferry Point; Patuxent River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Point Patience to the west point of land at the entrance of Little Kingston Creek; and Choptank River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Holland Point to a point of land at the west entrance of Chapel Creek are open.	2 fish per person per day between 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angler CANNOT have 2 fish longer than 28 inches in possession. • See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
SUMMER/FALL SEASON JUNE 1 – DEC. 15	All Maryland Chesapeake Bay waters and tributaries open to fishing	2 fish per person per day between 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches, and 1 fish over 28 inches per person per day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angler CANNOT have 2 fish longer than 28 inches in possession. • See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
DEC. 16 – DEC. 31	All MD portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only			

Striped bass tournaments in tidal waters require a free permit. For more information or to request a permit, contact the Fisheries Service at customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8325.

SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER & NORTHEAST RIVER

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
DEC. 16 – MAY 3	Susquehanna Flats, upstream of a line from Sandy Point to Turkey Point and the Susquehanna River downstream from a line connecting the Susquehanna State Park boat ramp at Lapidum to Twin Rocks to Tomes Wharf in Port Deposit; and the Northeast River	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stinger hooks are prohibited. • Barbless hooks are required when trolling. • Non-offset circle or J hooks with less than ½ inch gap are required when using bait. • No more than six lines per boat are allowed when trolling. • Eels may not be used as bait.
MAY 4 – MAY 15	Susq. Flats closed to striped bass fishing	Closed	Closed	No catch and release fishing
MAY 16 – MAY 31	Susq. Flats reopen to striped bass fishing	1 striped bass 18–26 inches per person per day inclusive		Eels may not be used as bait
JUNE 1 – DEC. 15	Susquehanna Flats and all Bay waters including tributaries open to striped bass fishing.	2 striped bass per person per day between 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches inclusive		

ATLANTIC COAST, COASTAL BAYS & THEIR TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
JAN. 1 – DEC. 31	No area restrictions	28 inches or larger; 2 per person per day		

RESERVOIRS

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
RESERVOIRS— NO CLOSED SEASON	Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Tridelphia Reservoir, Conowingo Reservoir, Broadford Lake, Jennings Randolph Reservoir, and Rocky Gorge Reservoir	18 inch minimum size; 2 fish per person per day — only 1 of those fish may be larger than 30 inches		No closed season



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HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permits

Waters three to 200 miles offshore of state coastlines constitute the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. If you are fishing in these waters for species such as sharks, tuna, marlin, swordfish or sailfish, someone on your vessel must hold a HMS permit from NOAA Fisheries. To obtain a permit, call 888-872-8862 or go to hmspermits.noaa.gov.

Passengers fishing on the vessel who do not possess an HMS permit or have a state saltwater fishing license must register with NOAA's National Saltwater Angler registry. Anglers holding state saltwater licenses from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Virgin Islands are also required to register.

To register, call 888-MRIP-411 (4 a.m. – midnight) or go to www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/register/.

Tagging Program

All recreationally landed Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT) and billfish (marlin, sailfish, swordfish and roundscale spearfish) landed in Maryland must be tagged before being removed from the boat and reported by vessel owners to a reporting station. Nine marinas in the Ocean City area qualify as ABT/billfish reporting stations. Anglers are responsible for completing a catch card for each ABT and billfish on board the vessel when they return to port. A tag is provided for each completed catch card and the angler is required to place this tag around the tail of the fish before removing it from the vessel. Boats cannot be pulled from the water until the tag is in place. For information on obtaining tags, call Maryland DNR at 410-213-1531.

Note: Roundscale spearfish look very similar to white marlin. For more information on identification of swordfish and billfish, please go to: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Billfish/hms_swo_billfish_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf

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Maryland residents may harvest oysters and clams for recreational purposes. No license is required.

Refer to maps of Maryland Shellfish Harvesting Areas for information on areas of restricted waters, closures, and coordinates of sanctuaries online via the DNR Shellfish Program webpage under related links: dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/oysters/index.asp

You may also call the Maryland Department of the Environment hotline 800-541-1210 to obtain information on conditional closures due to water quality or other environmental issues.

Recreational shellfish regulations for the Potomac River can be found at www.prfc.state.va.us.

It is illegal

- To take oysters or clams for recreational purposes while aboard a vessel where any person is engaged in commercial oystering or clamming.
- To recreationally harvest oysters or clams within a leased area, harvest reserve area, sanctuary or any other area closed by the state.
- To harvest oysters or clams if you are not a resident of Maryland.



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OYSTERS

Season

October 1–March 31

Daily Harvest Restrictions

1 bushel/person/day

Time of Day

Harvest is only permitted:

- Monday–Friday: Sunrise to 3 p.m.
- Saturday: Sunrise until 12 p.m.

Gear Restrictions

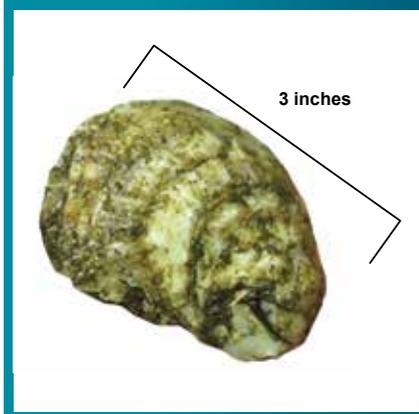
A person may catch oysters ONLY by:

- Hand
- Shaft tongs
- Rakes
- Diving (includes SCUBA)

Minimum Size Limits

Three inches measured from hinge to bill along the longest part of the shell.

HOW TO MEASURE OYSTERS



HOW TO MEASURE CLAMS



HARD CLAMS

Daily Harvest Restrictions

250 clams/person/day

Minimum Size Limits

One inch transverse measurement

GEAR	LOCATION ALLOWED	OPEN EASON	HARVEST TIME	CLOSED DAYS	ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS
HAND DREDGE	Pocomoke & Tangier Sounds	9/15–5/31	Sunrise–Sunset	Sunday	
PATENT TONGS	Somerset County	10/1–3/31	Sunrise–Sunset	Sunday	
HAND SCRAPE & SHINNECOCK RAKE	Worcester County	9/16–5/31	Any	None	May not clam within 300 feet of any shore or wharf without owner's permission
HAND, SHAFT TONGS, DIVING	All Locations	No closed season	Any	None	

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ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Maryland has artificial reef sites located in both Bay and ocean waters. These are collaborative projects with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the partner organizations of the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI) and the Ocean City Reef Foundation (OCRF).

MARI is a volunteer organization including more than 60 private, state, and federal partners dedicated to preserving, restoring and creating fish habitat in tide-water Maryland. MARI acts as a 501-C-3 funding mechanism under an agreement with CCA-MD using private and corporate donations for reef development. If you would like to donate to MARI, go to www.ccamd.org.

OCRF works to build the reefs off Ocean City and, in partnership with MARI, accepts donations as a non-profit 501-C-3 at www.ocreeffoundation.com.

For more general information on artificial reef projects and to view the MARI and OCRF reef coordinates, go to the DNR Artificial Reef Program website at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/reefs/.



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MARYLAND'S SEA TURTLE & MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING 24-HOUR HOTLINE: 800-628-9944

Sea turtles in Maryland include: Kemp's Ridley, Loggerhead, Green and Leatherback

- Call the hotline to report all (live or dead) stranded sea turtles or marine mammals including manatees, dolphins, whales, porpoise, seals, etc.)
- Do not touch, harass, feed or handle live or dead marine animals. Marine mammals and sea turtles are protected by federal and state laws that specify fines of up to \$50,000, imprisonment, and/or vessel confiscation.
- Record your location using latitude/longitude, a street address, and a detailed description of your location including landmarks.
- Estimate and record the length, size, color, noticeable body parts, and any movement of the animal.
- Take photos of the animal.
- If possible, after reporting a stranding, stand by until a staff person contacts you.
- If calling from outside Maryland, please use:
 - **Live animals:** 410-373-0083 (National Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Program)
 - **Dead animals:** 443-758-6607 (Maryland Department of Natural Resources Sea Turtle and Marine Animal Program).
 - For more information, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/oxford/stranding.asp or aqua.org/care/marine-animal-rescue-program



Photo courtesy of the National Aquarium Marine Animal Rescue Program, Baltimore, MD.



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MARYLAND FISHING CHALLENGE

2013 Maryland Fishing Challenge

The Maryland Fishing Challenge is a free, year-round contest sponsored by the Maryland DNR Fisheries Service to highlight the state's excellent fishing opportunities. Every angler who fishes legally in Maryland is eligible to participate. The contest runs from September 4, 2012 to September 2, 2013. It is funded by revenue from fishing licenses, gasoline sales surcharges, and a federal excise tax on sport fishing tackle and related equipment. The contest is also supported by generous recreational fishing organizations, individuals and businesses who donate prizes and fishing trips.

All public Maryland waters including freshwater ponds, lakes, impoundments, reservoirs, streams, Chesapeake Bay tributaries, Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight Bay, and Assawoman Bay and their tributaries bounded by the Maryland-Delaware line and the Maryland-Virginia line are included in the Maryland Fishing Challenge. Additionally, fish caught while aboard a sport fishing vessel leaving and returning to a Maryland port will be eligible if they meet the other Angler Award criteria.

For information about the Maryland Fishing Challenge or Angler Award program, go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge/index.asp or contact customerservice@dnr.state.md.us.

Contest components:

Angler Award Program — Participating is easy — all you need to do is catch and register a fish which meets or exceeds the minimum Angler Award size. There are 60 eligible species in three divisions. Simply check your catch in at an official Angler Award center to receive your entry ticket. Most tackle shops are registered Angler Award Centers. Catch and Release anglers may participate by submitting a clear photograph of the fish and the signature of a witness at an Angler Award center. Fish should be photographed on a tape measure so that the size can be verified. Once you have your entry ticket, complete the online registration at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge/index.asp?p=register.

After registering, you will receive your Angler Award certificate and information on the Grand Awards Celebration. Prize winners will be randomly selected from attendees at the celebration, which will be held during the Annual Maryland Seafood Festival on September 7, 2013 at Sandy Point State Park. Fishing Challenge Angler Award holders will receive free admission to the Maryland Seafood Festival for the day of the Grand Awards Celebration.

Diamond Jim — In June, July and August, DNR Fisheries biologists and teams of young anglers catch, tag and release striped bass in Chesapeake Bay. Every tag has a unique number designating the striper as a potential Diamond Jim. All tagged fish are worth cash to the lucky angler who catches it. Each month between June and September, one fish will be designated as an official Diamond Jim worth thousands of dollars. Go to www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/challenge/index.asp for the most current information on the values of tagged fish.

Youth Component — At selected youth rodeo events sponsored by local community and fishing organizations, one youth

angler under the age of 16 is chosen to advance to the Grand Awards Celebration. Not all youth rodeos are included in the Maryland Fishing Challenge. Check with the organizer of the rodeo to find out if the winner will advance to the grand awards event. For information on youth rodeos in your area go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing.

Maryland Fishing Challenge Rules:

General rules

1. DNR staff and their immediate families are ineligible.
2. Professional guides, charter boat captains, crew on for-hire fishing boats, or anyone who offers his fish for sale are ineligible.
3. All fish must be caught on rod and reel. From the time that a fish strikes or takes bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person. The reel must be operated manually. Once the leader is brought to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to help land the fish.
4. Fish that have been snagged, shot, gaffed, speared, scaled, or mutilated are not eligible.
5. The catch must be legal. Anglers should be aware of the fishing rules, eligible fish species and sizes.
6. Award certificates for sharks, billfish and red drum will only be issued for fish that are caught and released. When registering online, please select the catch and release option under the Catch Summary heading. Exceptions for these species will be made in the case of a state record catch, which requires a weight for the fish.
7. DNR reserves the right to refuse any Maryland Fishing Challenge application that is not complete or legible.
8. DNR decisions regarding the Maryland Fishing Challenge will be final.
9. DNR may approve special Angler Awards in the case of unusual catches or extenuating circumstances.
10. Submission of photographs authorizes DNR to use them for promotion in all media including the Internet.

Catch and Release Angler Award Program rules

The Maryland Catch and Release Program rewards anglers who release alive an Angler Award-sized fish, if the species is in season.

1. Fish must be caught in Maryland waters by rod and reel and released alive.
2. Fish must be of legal size as measured from tip of jaw to tip of tail.
3. Fish must meet or exceed the minimum Angler Award length. Lay the fish on a tape measure or ruler to photograph so that the species and size can be verified.
4. Only one Angler Award per species per day is allowed.
5. Register the catch including a clear photo and the signature of a witness at an Angler Award center. Digital photos are acceptable.
6. To advance to the Grand Awards Celebration, catch and release entries must include a clear photograph of the fish and the signature and contact information of a witness.





ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES

NON-TIDAL DIVISION	
Bluegill	11 inches
Brook Trout	12 inches
Brown Trout	21 inches
Bullhead Catfish	15 inches
Carp	36 inches
Chain Pickerel	24 inches
Channel Catfish	30 inches
Crappie	15 inches
Cutthroat Trout	20 inches
Largemouth Bass	21 inches
Muskellunge	40 inches
Northern Pike	38 inches
Rainbow Trout	20 inches
Redbreast Sunfish	8 inches
Redear Sunfish	11 inches
Rock Bass	10 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Striped Bass	36 inches
Tiger Muskie	40 inches
Walleye	26 inches
White Catfish	20 inches
White Perch	13 inches
Yellow Perch	14 inches

CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION	
Black Drum	48 inches
Blue Catfish	40 inches
Blue Crab	9 inches
Bluefish	34 inches
Carp	30 inches
Chain Pickerel	24 inches
Channel Catfish	30 inches
Cobia	44 inches
Crappie	15 inches
Croaker	18 inches
Gar	36 inches
Largemouth Bass	21 inches
Red Drum*	36 inches
Rock Bass	10 inches
Sheepshead	24 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Spanish Mackerel	22 inches
Spot	12 inches
Spotted Seatrout	24 inches
Striped Bass	40 inches
Summer Flounder	24 inches
Walleye	26 inches
Weakfish	24 inches
White Catfish	20 inches
White Perch	13 inches
Yellow Perch	14 inches

ATLANTIC COAST DIVISION	
Albacore (Longfin)	36 inches
Amberjack	45 inches
Atlantic Spadefish	24 inches
Black Drum	48 inches
Black Sea Bass	20 inches
Bluefish	34 inches
Blueline Tilefish	25 inches
Blue Marlin*	any size
Cobia	44 inches
Croaker	18 inches
Dolphin	45 inches
False Albacore	24 inches
Golden Tilefish	35 inches
King Mackerel	40 inches
Northern Whiting Kingfish	14 inches
Red Drum*	36 inches
Saifish*	any size
Shark, Blue*	any size
Shark, Hammerhead*	any size
Shark, Mako*	any size
Shark, Sand Tiger*	any size
Shark, Thresher*	any size
Shark, Tiger*	any size
Sheepshead	20 inches
Snowy Grouper	31 inches
Spanish Mackerel	22 inches

ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES

Spot	12 inches
Spotted Seatrout	24 inches
Striped Bass	40 inches
Summer Flounder	24 inches
Swordfish*	any size
Tautog	24 inches
Tuna, Bigeye**	60 inches
Tuna, Blackfin**	30 inches
Tuna, Bluefin**	55 inches
Tuna, Yellowfin**	50 inches
Wahoo	60 inches
Weakfish	24 inches
White Marlin*	any size

* Only released fish are eligible.

** Use curved fork length measurements.

THANK YOU!

The Maryland Fishing Challenge would not be possible without the sponsors, individuals, and fishing organizations who donate prizes and fishing trips. The contest is funded via revenue from fishing licenses, gasoline sales surcharges and a federal excise tax on sport fishing tackle and related equipment; and therefore it also depends on contributions from anglers like you. Thanks to all for your generous support!

ANGLER AWARD CENTERS

ALLEGANY
Bassin Box, Lavale
Orleans Grocery, Little Orleans
ANNE ARUNDEL
All Tackle, Annapolis
Angler's Sport Center, Annapolis
Bass Pro Shops, Hanover
Cobe Sport & Marine Center, Pasadena
Fishbone's Bait & Tackle, Inc., Pasadena
Marty's Sporting Goods, Edgewater
Tri-State Marine, Deale
BALTIMORE
Bluefin's Bait & Tackle, Dundalk
Bowley's Bait & Tackle, Baltimore
Clark's Sports Shop, Baltimore
Clyde's Sport Shop, Baltimore
Fearls Bait and Tackle, Baltimore
Set's Sport Shop, Towson
Tochterman's, Baltimore
Trophy Bait & Tackle, Baltimore
Deer Park Garden Center
CALVERT
Bay Pro Shop, Dunkirk
Breezy Point, Chesapeake Beach
Bunky's Charter Boats, Solomons
Rod n' Reel Dock, Chesapeake Beach
Tyler's Tackle Shop, Chesapeake Beach
Tiki Bar, Solomons
CAROLINE
Tuckahoe Sportsman, Denton
CARROLL
Piney Run Park, Sykesville
CECIL
Herb's Tackle Shop, North East
Sarge's Market, Elkton
CHARLES
Shymansky's Marina, Cobb Island
DORCHESTER
Taylor's Island Campground, Taylor's Island
Chesapeake Classics, Cambridge
Taylor's Island Campground @ Slaughter Creek, Taylor's Island
FREDERICK
Catfish Nation Bait & Tackle, Thurmont
Fox's Sport and Bait Shop, Frederick
GARRETT
Bill's Outdoor Center, Deep Creek Lake
Deep Creek Outfitters, Deep Creek Lake

ANGLER AWARD CENTERS

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River Rock Outdoors, Rock Hall
Shore Country Outdoors, Worton
MONTGOMERY
WSSC Watershed Police, Brookeville
QUEEN ANNE'S
Chesapeake Outdoors, Chester
Kentmoor Harbour, Stevensville
SOMERSET
Dave's RV, Crisfield
L.E.Hitch & Sons, Eden
ST. MARY'S
Kellum's Seafood, Ridge
The Tackle Box, Lexington Park
Bob's Sunoco, That Fishing Place, Calloway
TALBOT
Gateway Marina, Trappe
Harrison's Chesapeake House, Tilghman
Shore Sportsman, Easton
WASHINGTON
Battleview Market, Sharpsburg
Dugan's Sporting Goods, Hancock
WORCESTER
All Tackle, Ocean City
AKE Marine, Ocean City
Assateague Market, Berlin
Bahia Marina, Ocean City
Lucky Angler Bait & Tackle
Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City
Ocean City Fishing Pier, Ocean City
Ocean Pines Provisions, Ocean Pines
Oceanic Pier, Ocean City
Oyster Bay Tackle, Ocean City
Sea Hawk Sport Center, Pocomoke City
Talbot Street Bait & Tackle, Ocean City
Sunset Marina, Ocean City
White Marlin Marina, Ocean City
DELAWARE
Capt. Mac's Bait and Tackle, Selbyville
VIRGINIA
R.W.'s Sport Shop, Callao
Smith Point Marina, Reedville

Complete addresses and phone numbers for Angler Award Centers are available at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge





Bob Purcell's 56-pound snowy grouper

Rules and Procedures

Maryland DNR maintains state records for sport fish and awards a plaque to anglers whose catch exceeds the current state record or establishes a new species category. Positive identification of the species of fish is mandatory for consideration of state record applications. The catch must be inspected in person by a fisheries biologist from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Immerse the fish in ice water until it can be weighed in order to preserve the weight.

Call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8325 to report a potential state record catch.

- State record fish are determined by weight. Make every effort to quickly obtain an accurate certified weight, since dead fish lose weight. If you take your catch to an Angler Award center that does not have a Maryland Department of Agriculture-certified scale, a grocery store, mailing and shipping store, or other establishment that sells products by weight may have a certified scale and be willing to help.
- A Maryland State Record application form (www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/records/srapplication.pdf) listing the species, the certified weight, the date the fish was weighed, the witnessing scale operator's

signature, and the name of establishment must be submitted to DNR within two weeks of when the catch was made.

- Fish must be a species commonly fished for with rod and reel and caught by legal methods during an open season.
- From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person. The reel must be operated manually. Once the leader is brought to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to help land the fish.
- Fish caught from privately-owned fee-fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.
- The fish must be considered trophy sized for DNR to consider opening a new species category for recognition. Thresholds for weight are established by DNR using the best data available to create a benchmark.
- It is the angler's responsibility to provide all of the information and a clear photograph.
- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of measuring and weighing. It also reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of the investigation.

STATE RECORDS

To check current state records visit www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/records/index.asp.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TAGGED FISH!

The success of tagging studies relies on anglers like you. If you catch a tagged fish, please follow the instructions printed on the tag, or call Fisheries Service at 800-688-3467. Please record the tag number, capture date, fishing location, and total length.



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